

No. 65,464

MONDAY JANUARY 1 1996

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New year celebrations in Sydney, with the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge outlined by a £72,000 firework display set off from cranes and barges and cued to music

I will not cut and run, vows Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR last night accused the latest Tory defector of "cutting and running" as the Conservative high command tried to head off the danger of further desertions with pledges to uphold the values of one nation Conservatism.

The Prime Minister, in his first comments on the decision of Emma Nicholson to join the Liberal Democrats, reducing his parliamentary majority to three, underlined his determination to fight on into 1997.

In a conversation with Brian Mawhinney, his party chairman, he promised that he would push on "through hell or high water" in spite of

the new threat to the Government's survival.

Last night Mr Major delivered a bitter attack on Miss Nicholson, whose Friday night announcement torpedoed the Government's new year counter-attack against Labour.

Writing in *The Sun* Mr Major said: "It is easy to cut and run when hard decisions have to be made, as we have seen with the defection of one MP in the last couple of days. It is sad when people cannot see through commitments they have personally made to their electorate just a few years ago. But that will not deflect me from seeing through my commitments to the end."

At the same time Mr Major issued a defiantly upbeat

message to the Conservative Party. He warned them that a Labour Government would "weaken, divide and wreck Britain". He declared that in 1996 more of Britain's success would feed through into people's pockets.

He heralded a "triple gold" — homeowners enjoying the lowest mortgage costs for a generation, families seeing a big increase in their spending power after tax changes and inflation, and people benefiting from extra expenditure on schools, hospitals and police.

Britain had earned the right to look forward with confidence, optimism and hope, he said. Mr Major's message was written before the Nicholson defection and Conservative sources said that he had not

changed it as a result of her decision.

After a day in which the Liberal Democrats and a senior Tory MP suggested that others might follow Miss Nicholson, sources highlighted passages that reflected Mr Major's commitment to one nation Conservatism.

He wrote to constituency chairmen: "We must not rest until all our children are taught in schools where high standards and honest values go hand in hand... We must maintain and improve our public services. We must promote our beliefs abroad as resolutely as we cherish them at home."

A succession of Tories seized on Miss Nicholson's departure to warn Mr Major that he must not abandon the centre ground.

Miss Nicholson pinpointed the alleged departure from one nation principles as the reason for so many MPs deciding to stand down at the next election. She said: "We just can't stand the bashing of people of different colours and creeds, minorities and single parents; somebody who just doesn't happen to be a white, Anglo-Saxon, male, protestant, Member of Parliament."

Senior Tories were coming to terms with the prospect of their Commons majority disappearing this year. There are no immediate signs of any further defections, but they cannot be ruled out. The death of one or two Tory MPs could mean that the majority will go.

She discloses that, after the

Continued on page 2, col 1

Royal gift to head's memorial

The Queen has made a substantial personal donation to the memorial fund for the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence.

The contribution, for an undisclosed amount, was revealed last night by Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing and a fund trustee. He said Mr Lawrence's widow Frances and the couple's four children were "grateful and delighted" at the gesture.

The Times on the Internet

The Times is available from today on the Internet, the worldwide system of inter-linked computers. Our pages can be found on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>. Our sister paper *The Sunday Times* will be available from January 7. Pages 4, 15

Shephard to address union militants

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

GILLIAN SHEPHERD is to confront classroom militants head on by becoming the first Education Secretary for 16 years to address the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers.

The invitation accepted by Mrs Shephard represents a victory for moderates trying to wrest control of the union from left-wingers who dominate the policy-making conference. Activists are predicting disruption and officials expect to step up pressure for the conference in Cardiff over the Easter weekend.

Last Easter, there were ugly scenes when David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, arrived to speak at a fringe meeting. He was harangued by far-left demonstrators and had to take refuge in a locked office for almost half an hour.

However, Mr Blunkett will be returning to address the full conference this year. Mrs Shephard spoke at all the other classroom unions last year without incident.

Bernard Regan, a left-winger on the NUT executive, said: "I should have thought there will be pretty overwhelming opposition to Mrs Shephard's views. How the delegates will express it, I do not know, but I would have thought there will be some expression of concern and anger."

The executive approved the invitation by a narrow majority in the teeth of militant opposition. The education spokesmen of Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats have also been invited to speak on different days.

Defecting MP 'punched'

By PETER RIDDELL

EMMA NICHOLSON, the former Tory MP who has defected to the Liberal Democrats, claims she was hit in the stomach by a Conservative MP in the Commons after she voted for disclosure of members' outside earnings from parliamentary activities.

In an interview with *The Times*, she says the personal hostility of Tory MPs and party whips to her views on Nolan was one reason why she decided to cross the floor.

Miss Nicholson says she faced "intolerable" abuse for her belief in greater transparency. When she gave evidence to the Nolan inquiry, a Tory

whip told her she had "betrayed" her colleagues.

On November 6 she was one of two dozen Tory MPs to vote for disclosure, and immediately after leaving the division lobby another member gave her "a sharp blow in the stomach". She refuses to say who hit her and whether it was a man or a woman.

Miss Nicholson says she faced an "onslaught" by colleagues complaining that she faced a "substantial loss of income because of me". What the whips said afterwards was "unprintable". She also objected to John Major and the Tory whips "bearing down on those

of us who wanted to support, on a free vote, transparency on additional earnings from income". The pressures were "almost unbearable". She also complains about "disgusting locker-room insults" by male Tory MPs about Labour women members, including trowbachers.

Her objections to government pressure over Nolan coincided with other worries. She cites government policy on Europe, single mothers, the handing off of women prisoners, cuts in overseas aid and the new asylum Bill.

She discloses that, after the

Continued on page 2, col 1

Genghis Khan is chosen Man of the Millennium

From IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

TONGUE planted firmly in cheek, *The Washington Post* yesterday cast aside any shilly-shallying about naming the man of the year, decade or century and went boldly instead for its Man of the Millennium.

And the winner was: Genghis Khan.

The paper conceded that the 13th

Century Mongol conqueror "embodied the half-civilised, half-savage qualities of the human race". But look at his achievements: although he died at 60, his empire stretched from the Pacific to Eastern Europe and from Siberia to the Persian Gulf. Slaughter unparalleled for its day made it so.

Among those rejected by the Post for the millennium honour were Columbus ("somewhat boring") and Queen Victoria, who also knew a thing or two about building empires.

This could be the start of a parlour game or a subject of idle speculation

from now until, well, the next millennium. The newspaper carried a list of other categories. Among them: Greatest Time and Place of the Millennium: Titian's Venice. Runners-up: New York in the 40s, Paris in the 20s, and Elizabethan England.

Greatest Book: Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*. Greatest Invention: the printing press.

Greatest Painting: Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling. Greatest Scientist: Albert Einstein, beating Edison and

Copernicus. Greatest Genius: Shakespeare. No runner-up considered. Greatest Musical Composition: Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*.

Greatest Singer: Enrico Caruso. Most Evil Person: Adolf Hitler ("we simply had no choice"). In this last category, Genghis Khan must have come close. As the compilers admitted, their Man of the Millennium was not the most benevolent person of his age, nor the deepest thinker, nor the greatest liberator; he was a thug.

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How Wilson pioneered the political soundbite

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THE political soundbite was invented for Harold Wilson more than 30 years ago by a professional speaking coach who told him to cut down his rhetorical flourishes.

Secret Cabinet papers released today under the 30-year rule show that long before an army of image-makers and style consultants made such advice *de rigueur*, Wilson was told by a voice tutor to keep it short, sharp and avoid the flights of oratory beloved of political speakers from Mark Antony to Michael Foot.

The unsung pioneer was Cicely Berry, later to become voice coach at the Royal Shakespeare Company, a post she held for 25 years. In a piece of advice that could easily have been written by style-guru Peter Mandelson for the present Labour leader, she told Wilson: "There is a tendency to get into a cadence on a long speech and this lessens the appreciation of the content." Wilson was also told "to keep a colloquial rhythm and only let it brighten into rhetorical sing at moments."

Armed with such sage advice, Wilson went on to become famous for his relaxed, avuncular television broadcasts in marked contrast to the stilted appearances of Edward Heath, then Tory leader.

Ms Berry was recruited to boost Wilson's television image in 1965. In a six-point action plan, she told Wilson to sharpen his diction. A "lack of muscularity in lips and tongue" meant his words carried insufficient edge. Wilson was also told to relax his tense shoulders since it showed "a slight lack of confidence".

Speaking from her home near Stratford-upon-Avon at the weekend, Ms Berry, who later worked with Neil Kinnock, then Tory leader.

for the present leaders, John Major should "try reading some poetry aloud and learn its music. He has no sense of the music of words, no feel. It's nothing to do with education, he just has no poetry."

Tony Blair she said, needs to learn the value of the dramatic pause. "He's at us all the time, instead of giving us a moment to think, a moment to allow us to come to him."

Gallows and hems, page 6

Model Jean Shrimpton: short skirt raised eyebrows at the races

PM Harold Wilson: wanted to send British troops to Vietnam

Star Dusty Springfield: expelled from South Africa after concert

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Gallows and hems, page 6

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY
PLAY TO WIN £50,000
See how your Interactive Team Football players are performing
PLUS: Libby Purves and Nigella Lawson

WEDNESDAY
THE TIMES
ITF
INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

THURSDAY
FILMS OF THE WEEK
The Horseman on the Roof, France's most expensive film
PLUS: Books, Health and Travel News

FRIDAY
POP
This year's sound: who you will buy in 1996
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview, and the Education page

SATURDAY
SAILING
 Falling in love with a racy lady, in Weekend
PLUS: Magazine: special travel issue

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: TWO BLOOMSBURY BOOKS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

Ulster Unionists pledge to avert threat of an early election

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Ulster Unionists would support John Major if Labour tabled a motion of confidence in the Government in the near future. John Taylor, the party's deputy leader, said yesterday.

The MP for Strangford said that Ulster Unionists had no reason to bring about an early general election. "So long as the Government acts in the interests of the United Kingdom, and in particular Northern Ireland, we would not precipitate an early general election ... at

the moment, the Government is trying its best," Mr Taylor said.

Mr Major will be encouraged that some of Mr Taylor's comments were echoed yesterday by Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, who is normally a staunch critic of the Government.

The MP for East Belfast said that the DUP's three MPs would sustain the Government in power if the Government committed itself to establishing an elected convention in Northern Ireland.

Mr Robinson added that if ministers stayed away from backing the assembly by the time of a no-

confidence vote, the DUP would not support the Government. However, the MP said he had been encouraged by the warm reception the Government had given to Unionist proposals for an assembly, which were mentioned in November's Anglo-Irish communiqué.

The comments from both MPs underlined the delicate game Unionists will play as the government majority dwindles. Unionists will not want to terminate the Government's life prematurely because they are acutely aware that as Mr Major's position weakens their leverage over the Government will increase.

However, Mr Trimble will not want the Prime Minister to take his support for granted during the next

crucial phase in the peace process, which includes the publication of the Mitchell report on arms decommissioning this month. If the Government weakens its position on the arms issue and makes further concessions to Sinn Fein, the relatively warm atmosphere between the Ulster Unionists and the Government could quickly dissipate.

If Labour tables a no-confidence motion, attention will focus on the nine UUP MPs, who can be expected to back the position adopted by Mr Trimble and Mr Taylor, despite significant differences between the individual MPs.

Taylor: would support Tories in confidence vote

Defecting MP 'punched'

Continued from page 1
rightwing speeches at earlier Tory party conferences, she "actively didn't want to go" to the Blackpool conference three months ago. She compares the anti-Brussels speech made then by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, with what was being said in Nazi Germany in 1937.

It took just over three weeks from her initial semi-joking contact with Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat for North Devon, late at night in the Commons, to her announcement on Friday. It involved contacts via various intermediaries, then a series of secret meetings.

These were first with Lord Holme of Cheltenham, the party's longstanding behind-the-scenes fixer, to gauge how serious she was about changing party and how comfortable she would be with the Liberal Democrats, the Tories'

main enemy in the West Country, then with Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, in Devon on the Friday before Christmas and in London last Wednesday.

She informed the Prime Minister and the officers of her local association in Devon West and Torridge just before the planned interview with Robin Oakley, the BBC's political editor, last Friday.

A crisis meeting of the officers of Devon West and Torridge Conservative Association was due to take place today.

Photographs of the MP have already been removed from the association buildings, but officers have decided not to incur any costs by reprinting their stationery.

Margaret Taylor, the chairman of the association, said: "A simple pen stroke through her name will do."

Dame Margaret Fry, the

association president who worked with the MP for three years at Conservative Central office, said: "I received a fax only 10 minutes before she went live on the news. I was baffled. It thanked me for my hard work. Then I got a phone call from the chairman.

"I sensed that there was dissatisfaction. But right until a few days ago she was defending the government line and pledging that she would stand again. We feel so let down. She said that she hoped the friendship could continue. We will have to see."

Miss Nicholson antagonised her supporters in 1990 by joining the Michael Heseltine leadership campaign against Margaret Thatcher. "Some thought she should have been deselected then," Dame Margaret said.

Peter Riddell, page 14
Letters, page 15

Tories advertise for election victory

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

WHICH COUNTRY...

has the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years;
has the lowest basic rate of tax for over 50 years;
has the lowest unemployment of any major European country;
has the longest period of low inflation for 50 years;

has the majority of Europe's most profitable companies;
is now selling more goods and services abroad than ever before;
and has seen the fewest days lost in strikes since records began?

OUR COUNTRY.

John Major

The Tory party's advert in yesterday's papers

JOHN MAJOR is to call on Maurice Saatchi and other image gurus of the Thatcher years to help him in his attempt to gain re-election. Advertisements placed in yesterday's newspapers to mark the start of a new year campaign to spell out the Tory record of achievements.

Yesterday's advert, signed by Mr Major, emphasises among other things that Britain has the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years, the lowest basic rate of tax for 50 years, the lowest unemployment of any major European country and the longest period of low inflation for 50 years.

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party Chairman, will also call on the expertise of Sir Tim Bell and Peter Gummer, brother of the Environment Secretary John, to make presentations in the campaign. Party sources say the advertisements put across the party's case in a straightforward way. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, is a strong supporter of the plan.

He has complained that the media has been obsessed with the Government's internal troubles and has failed to put across its achievements.

Yesterday's advert, signed by Mr Major, emphasises among other things that Britain has the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years, the lowest basic rate of tax for 50 years, the lowest unemployment of any major European country and the longest period of low inflation for 50 years.

Mr Major repeated these assertions in his new year message to Tory party chairman last night.

No decision on the party's advertising account has been taken by Mr Mawhinney, who wants to be able to call on as much talent as possible.

Hints of more defectors, but all suspects say: 'Not me'

Tory moderates tell Major to stop pandering to the Right

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

LEADERS of the Conservative centre-left told John Major yesterday that there must be no more "pandering" to the Right if he wanted to avoid further defections in the coming year.

But despite a prediction from one left-wing Tory that six or seven others could leave, there was no immediate sign of potential defectors to follow the paths of Emma Nicholson or Alan Howarth.

Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster and chairman of the Macleod group, the leading parliamentary centre-left grouping, said the defections indicated a "serious state of unhappiness in the centre-left of the Conservative Party".

He went on: "It is up to the leadership by its actions and rhetoric to recognise this and the fact that the party must be kept united with due consideration for both its wings, not just one of them."

As the media and the Conservative whips scanned their lists of MPs for potential defectors, the name most frequently canvassed was Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East, who rebelled in the fishing vote before Christmas because of the Government's allegedly negative attitude at the Mardrill summit.

Indeed, it was Mr Dykes who predicted, during an interview with *The World This Weekend* on Radio 4, that there were "six or seven potential who will move away unless the Government returns to the moderate centre".

However, he made plain that he was not one of them. He said that he was a lifelong Tory who intended to stay and fight for the right policies. That appeared to be the view of the majority of pro-European Tory MPs; several of whom are retiring at the next election.

Another name mentioned by some Liberal Democrat sources was Robert Hicks, MP for Cornwall South East, who has long been uneasy about the Government's European stance. Mr Hicks was in Port Elizabeth at the weekend watching cricket. Close friends of the MP, who is standing down at the election, said he would never leave the party.

Other names being floated were Sir David Knox, MP for Staffordshire Moorlands, and Sir Jim Lester, MP for Broxtowe. But their friends made plain there was no chance of them leaving the Tories. Sir Jim said in a BBC interview that the Right had made the most noise, but the intellectual case for One Nation Toryism had not been lost and it was all the more important to stay and put the case.

Conservative MPs forecast that any other defectors would almost certainly be names. One said: "If there is another, it will be an oddball — someone we had not thought of."



Emma Nicholson at home yesterday: one rebel claimed that "six or seven" others could follow her resolve

Collapse from within poses biggest threat to survival of Government

By PHILIP WEBSTER

TORY MPs agreed yesterday that growing disintegration within the party, rather than the loss of its majority, was the biggest threat to John Major's intention of delaying the general election until 1997.

Whatever happens over the next few months, the Conservatives will remain by far the largest party in Parliament.

The disappearance of the majority, if it happens, will not in itself mean that an election is certain.

Governments can survive for long periods without an overall majority, provided there is a lack of unanimity among the various opposition parties over a proposition that they should be brought down.

The Government is now virtually reconciled to suffering more defeats over the coming year. But it is only if, following one of those defeats, Tony Blair tables a confidence motion and the opposition parties unite to beat the Government that an election will be called.

Emma Nicholson's defection, increasing the Liberal Democrat tally of MPs to 25 and reducing the Tories to 324, strictly cuts the Government's majority to three. If Sir Richard Body, the last of the whipless Euro-rebels, is counted outside, the figure is five.

The Government is almost certain to lose the two pending by-elections in Hemsworth and Staffordshire South-East, reducing the strict majority to one or three if Sir Richard is on board.

Thus the death of one or two Tory MPs this year, an actual likelihood, or another defection or two would wipe out the majority.

Labour will clearly seek any opportunity to make the Government look incapable of governing. In the first months of the year it is to table a Commons motion opposing rail privatisation. If the handful of Tory rail rebels find themselves unable to support the Government it will be defeated and a key plank of government strategy will be in jeopardy.

However, the Government will still be likely to retain its slender Commons majority at that stage. A confidence motion would be defeated and would rally the Tories for a short time.

For Tony Blair the best time to table a confidence motion is clearly when the Government's majority has gone. At that point the nine Ulster Unionists would have to decide whether they wanted to pull the plug.

Knowing that it could be months before the Government finally loses its majority, Labour is therefore counting on continuing disarray within the ruling party to bring forward the date of an election.

Ministers know that they



The figures do not include the speaker, 3 deputy speakers and two vacant seats

MPs does not improve by next autumn many MPs believe that its will to govern will be called into question.

It is at that point that Mr Major, despite his protestations to the contrary over the weekend, may decide it is better to go sooner rather than later.

Lake McShane, 11, above, became the youngest British player to defeat a chess grandmaster in a formal tournament. He now leads the challengers' section of the tournament in Hastings, East Sussex, with a 100 per cent score. Luke was recognised as an outstanding talent at the age of five by the London Chess Centre in Clapham, south London. In 1992 he won the world championship for under-10s.

Match report, page 27

Passengers hurt

Three passengers were injured when a train from Reading crashed into the buffers at Paddington station, west London. One passenger had whiplash injuries and two others suffered from shock. They were treated at St Mary's Hospital near by, but were not badly hurt. The crash disrupted London Underground services and the Hammersmith and City line was closed for a few hours while rail staff carried out safety checks.

State security

A sophisticated new surveillance system is being installed to boost security during state occasions, such as Trooping the Colour, it was disclosed yesterday. Work to install the equipment in a security control room at Horse Guards Parade in central London is well under way. The system will be linked to television cameras positioned at strategic monitoring points in the area.

Lovers can claim

Unmarried partners will be able to claim a share of their dead lover's estate under new legal rights for cohabitants that come into force today. The Law Reform (Succession) Act brings in a range of reforms to clarify the law on wills and inheritance in line with two Law Commission reports. A Church of England report last year estimated that by the end of the century four couples in five would be unmarried.

Navy on patrol as Spanish boats fish

A lone Royal Navy fishery protection vessel will be on patrol in the controversial Irish Box waters this morning as the prime fishing area is opened for the first time to the Spanish fishing fleet. Spain has already sent the names of 20 vessels which intend to fish in the area between southern Ireland and the British and Welsh coasts, known by the Spanish fishing community as *El Box*.

A maximum of 40 Spanish vessels are allowed in the 92,000 square mile Irish Box at one time under an agreement which has enraged British fishermen, particularly in the West Country, worried about stock levels.

Stabbing charges

Police have charged a 22-year-old man with 10 attempted murders after shoppers and staff at a supermarket were stabbed on Friday. The man, a part-time employee at the Netto supermarket at Bordesley Green, Birmingham, will appear before magistrates today. He is also charged with attempting to wound two police officers. Five people are in hospital with stab wounds, including a 65-year-old man whose condition is serious.

Coach ban starts

Coaches are to be banned from the outside lane of motorways from today in a two-year trial that has enraged the coach industry. The ban is in response to a European Commission directive which requires most buses and coaches to be fitted with speed limiters, restricting their maximum speed to 65mph. Coach operators say that since the journeys will take longer, more fuel will have to be used and fares will have to increase.

Chess prodigy



Lake McShane, 11, above, became the youngest British player to defeat a chess grandmaster in a formal tournament. He now leads the challengers' section of the tournament in Hastings, East Sussex, with a 100 per cent score. Luke was recognised as an outstanding talent at the age of five by the London Chess Centre in Clapham, south London. In 1992 he won the world championship for under-10s.

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Bishops condemn 'grotesque' £33m Lottery jackpot

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A RECORD £33 million Lottery jackpot for next weekend was condemned as grotesque yesterday by senior churchmen. Radical changes to the system will be proposed by Labour at the end of the month.

A former Tory Cabinet minister joined critics and said that the Lottery had turned from a vote winner into a vote loser for the Government.

The top prize has been "rolled over" for a second week after nobody picked Saturday's winning numbers.

The dispute intensified as it emerged that Labour's heritage team is engaged in a comprehensive review which may lead to a party pledge to install a non-profit operator when Camelot's seven-year contract expires.

A senior Labour party source said: "The central issue is whether the Lottery should be profit-making. There is concern over the size of Camelot's profits."

When Camelot was awarded the licence, it projected it would not make a profit for several years. In November,

The Archbishop of Canterbury urged people to add making time for God to their new year's resolutions.

Dr George Carey said that there was now a "real spiritual yearning" but "if we want to discover the answers we are searching for, we need to make time to pray and to seek the Lord to spend time with".

however, it announced a £23.6 million post-tax profit for 24 weeks to September 16. Labour MPs said the figure was excessive. Ministers in turn accused the Opposition of being the enemy of profit.

The Labour review is also examining the distribution of money to needy causes, the role of Peter Davis, the regulator, and whether there should be a ceiling on prizes.

The Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, said that next week's record jackpot was obscene. "It can totally destroy lives and bring misery. Prizes of this size are not necessary and they encourage greed. It also

encourages people to gamble beyond their means."

He urged an all-party commission to examine the effects of the Lottery.

The Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Philip Goodrich, said: "The £33 million prize is grotesque. It is a great pity that the Lottery has become such a central feature of everyday life. Generally, we are putting too much money into private pockets when we should be doing more for people in need."

The Rev Bill Wallace, convener of the Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility, said: "It is appealing to people's greed and we don't think it's the sort of thing government and big business should be involved in." The Church of Scotland is opposed to the Lottery on principle and its ruling general assembly has decided not to apply for funds.

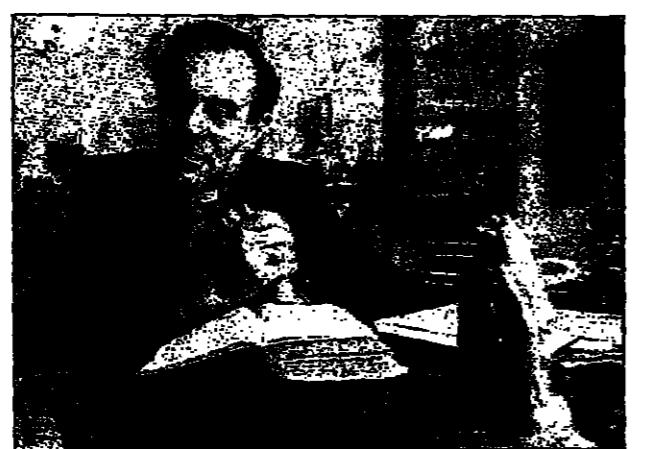
Gamblers' Anonymous said yesterday that it has received 17.5 per cent more calls for assistance since the National Lottery began.

Lord St John of Fawsley, a former arts minister and chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, said: "Only this country could turn what could be a great national asset into a continuing and embarrassing disaster. There must be a root and branch review of all aspects of the Lottery."

"Is £1 million not enough? We are worshipping the golden calf. The National Lottery has become an extraordinary liability for the Government."

Millions of extra tickets are expected to be sold for the Lottery this week. If there is no winner on Saturday, there can be one further "roll over" before the prize is distributed to the next level of winners.

Winning numbers, page 18



Bishop McCulloch: "It can totally destroy lives and bring misery. People gamble beyond their means"

What would you do if fate's fickle finger made you rich?

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE winner of the estimated £33 million jackpot will be provided with a team of financial advisers by Camelot to ensure they are not exploited by the unscrupulous.

If one person wins, by the time the following week's jackpot is drawn he or she will have accrued £45,486 in interest in a building society.

Richard Branson, who was thwarted in his attempt to run the Lottery, could provide a 40-year holiday on Necker, his Caribbean island, where

the weedy rent is £15,000. The Royal Yacht Britannia, and four stately homes, would fit comfortably within the £33 million price range, or the winner could book into the finest suite in London's Ritz Hotel for the next 100 years.

The jackpot would enable the winner to buy 300 top-of-the-range Rolls-Royce Silver Spirals which cost a mere £12,000 before a discount has been negotiated for buying in bulk. Or the car enthusiast could bid for the world's most expensive motor vehicle, a vintage Bugatti Royale, which

is expected to fetch £13 million later this year.

Football fans could start their own team. However, the £33 million would be enough to run top-of-the-table Newcastle United for only one year.

Writers who were security conscious could invest in the ultimate deterrent: a squadron of Challenger tanks, a couple of Tornado fighters, or a fully armed battalion.

The £33 million would also provide 2,000 teaching posts for 12 months or three new secondary schools.

By STEPHEN FARRELL
AND STEWART TENDER

THE father of Celine Figard, the murdered French hitch-hiker, travelled to Worcester to see his daughter's body yesterday, as police declared that they may be hunting a serial killer.

Bernard Figard, wearing a maroon anorak, placed three bunches of chrysanthemums, freesias and laurels in a yellow plastic container attached to the fence beneath which his daughter's body was discovered by a motorist. The 46-year-old farmer quietly walked back towards Hagley Wood, lifted his camera and took a photograph of the scene. Police officers stood back to allow him several minutes alone.

Then, speaking through a police interpreter, M Figard appealed for help from the public to trace the killer. "Celine came to this country because she likes England and she likes the people here," he said. "Everyone who can help catch her killer must. I urge anyone who knows anything to talk to the police so we can find this person."

M Figard was driven away in an unmarked police car. The family plans to take her body back to France, but no date has been fixed for her funeral.

West Mercia police, who took over the investigation after the discovery of Mlle Figard's body on Friday, believe she may have been the victim of a serial killer. They are looking at possible links to the murders of nine women dating from the late 1980s.

Detective Chief Superintendent John McCammon, who is leading the murder hunt, said yesterday that his team was in particular studying the files on Tracey Turner, whose body was found in March 1994 in Leicestershire, close to the junction of the M1 and M6. Police have been struck by the fact that both Mlle Figard and Miss Turner were last seen alive at service stations.

Mr McCammon, head of West Mercia CID, told a press conference: "There are several cases around the country that are well known and have been reported where naked women have been found adjacent to major roads or country lanes with similar injuries to those of Celine."

He added: "Those are things we will be looking at and we will be in contact with other investigating officers from other forces and indeed from this force to see if there are any similarities. But at the moment there is nothing definite to link it to any other killing."

Mr McCammon added

that there was no evidence that Mlle Figard, 19, had been kept alive after her abduction. "She could have been killed straight away," he said. Police do not know how long the body lay unnoticed, but want to talk to motorists or walkers in the area last Thursday, the day before she was found.

Mlle Figard, an accountancy student from Ferrières-les-

Scy, southeast of Paris, was last seen on December 19 after she boarded a lorry at the M4 service station at Chieveley, Berkshire. The driver promised to drop her off in Hampshire, where she was due to spend Christmas at Fordingbridge. Her body was found dumped by a lay-by on the A49 not far from the M5 on Friday.

ten days later.

In March 1994, Tracey Turner's body was found in a ditch at Biteswell, Leicestershire. A prostitute, she was last seen alive looking for clients at a service station on the M6 at Hilton Park.

Earlier this month, detectives from West Mercia and eight other forces met to discuss possible links be-

tween the Turner case and eight other murders involving prostitutes or women who may have been mistaken for prostitutes.

They date from 1987 and cover Lancashire, London, the Midlands, East Anglia and the West Country. Police decided there were no clear links but could not rule out a connection. Some involved strangulation and others had been beaten to death and in a number of cases the bodies were left near motorways.

In the case of Jane Clayton, 27, a member of a religious commune, police believe she may have been mistaken for a prostitute. She was dumped in a ditch at Coleby, Lincolnshire, in July 1994.

The investigation into Mlle Figard's death is concentrating on tracing the lorry driver who picked her up in his white Mercedes truck with grey Thermo-King refrigerated trailer around 5.10pm on December 19. When she was found she had been beaten around the head and mortified. There was no sign of her clothes, nor a suitcase and rucksack she was carrying. A post-mortem examination showed no evidence of sexual assault.

The investigation will now focus on two aspects: witnesses at the scene and tracing the driver. He was described as white, aged 30 to 35, with short fair hair, a cropped "chinstrap" beard and wearing a grey sweatshirt and pullover, possibly a uniform.

"Whether or not he is Celine's killer is not known. He may just have picked her up and then dropped her off," Mr McCammon said. Checks with the DVLA in Swansea showed 1,200 such vehicles registered in Britain. □ Police searching for Louise Smith, the 18-year-old who vanished a week ago were questioning partygoers arriving for new year celebrations last night at the club where she was last seen a week ago.

More than a dozen officers were due to be outside the Spirals Club until early today in an appeal for more help in finding her. Police prepared leaflets to hand out to people leaving and arriving which show a photograph of Miss Smith and details of her disappearance.

Inspector Peter Rowe, of Avon and Somerset police, said yesterday that police were hoping for one vital bit of information from a member of the public which could help to find her. He said police were still hoping to find her and return her to her family safe and well.

Miss Smith, of Chipping Sodbury, was last seen shortly after leaving the nightclub in Yate on Christmas morning.

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Priest links robe to Catherine of Aragon

BY DALYA ALBERG
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A SHROPSHIRE parish priest believes that his church robe, carries a 450-year-old design embroidered by Catherine of Aragon, the first wife of Henry VIII.

Legend linked the robe to Catherine, who was an expert needlewoman. Father Paul Sidoli, the Ludlow and Cleobury Mortimer parish priest, spent a year researching the connection. Before then, historians could date it to the early 16th century only on stylistic grounds.

However, Father Sidoli has become convinced that the robe bears Catherine's handiwork: its imagery includes eight pomegranates, the heraldic symbol of Granada in southern Spain, where Catherine was born. But he found that in the published text of her will Catherine stipulated that cloth from her garments be used by priests for wadding.

Father Sidoli said: "One will simply never come across

Worcestershire and Shropshire and bequeathed to the parish in 1938 by Sir Walter Blount.

It was on loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum until last year, when Father Sidoli was asked to verify that the robe belonged to his parish for insurance purposes. When Father Sidoli asked to see it, the museum offered to donate it back to the church, as it already had embroidered work from the same period.

The garment is now kept locked away at a secret location. Previously it was seen by parishioners only on rare occasions, such as the fifth anniversary celebrations of a former priest.

David Lloyd, a local historian and author of several books on Ludlow, said: "The findings remind us just how important these little pockets of Roman Catholicism were in outlying areas such as Shropshire. As I understand it, this is why the gown has survived. It also reminds us how important Ludlow was. It was virtually the capital of Wales. That's why Catherine came."

a document that confirms an artifact is 100 per cent what it appears to be. But the evidence all points to this being a genuine article."

Queen Mary, Henry's daughter by Catherine, enlisted the help of aristocratic Catholic families to protect the garment during the Reformation. It was held for hundreds of years at family seats in Warwickshire and Shropshire and bequeathed to the parish in 1938 by Sir Walter Blount.

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Tips - but no cures - for the hangover blues

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

FEELING rough? Wondering how to cure that dry mouth and throbbing head? Well, please don't ask your doctor.

All over the country people are suffering what scientists call "a nutritionally self-induced type of cerebral malfunction" - to the rest of us, a hangover. But, the secret of the hangover cure is that there isn't one.

Some Scots swear by Irn-Bru, a fizzy orange drink deemed to have near-magical powers. Russians simply open another bottle of vodka and begin again. In reality nothing works much better than Alka Seltzer. Secretly, many doctors are delighted

by this, because if it wasn't for hangovers lots more people would become alcoholics.

The Consumers' Association magazine, *Which?*, carried out tests on commercial hangover remedies and found that they would relieve the symptoms, but no more effectively or cheaply than two paracetamol in a glass of water. Most of the remedies consist of a painkiller plus bicarbonate to settle the stomach, together with other minor ingredients.

The basic cause of hangovers is dehydration. Alcohol is a diuretic, so leaves the body short of fluids. The result is to cause the blood vessels leading to the brain to dilate, increasing pressure and causing the splitting

head. Drinking at least a pint of water before going to bed is a good idea. The fact that the body is dehydrated explains why the "hair of the dog" can relieve the symptoms, just by adding fluid, but it is unlikely to be any more effective than water.

Food before drinking cuts blood alcohol levels by up to 40 per cent, with a consequent diminution of the hangover. Milk and yoghurt are also reckoned to be good absorbers. Given a choice of drinks, the less violent their colour the better. Worst of all is port.

There is some justification for taking vitamins, to replace those washed away the night before. Fruit, fruit juice and vitamins B and C in plentiful amounts can do no harm. Since alcohol irritates the lining of the

stomach, something to settle that should help, which brings us back to Alka Seltzer or its kindred. Sweet drinks can help to stabilise blood-sugar levels and restore energy, which may be the secret of Irn-Bru.

A couple of years ago the American company CompuMed promised an elixir called SoberGain. It worked by lining the intestine with extra supplies of the enzyme that breaks down alcohol, and promised to sober you up much more quickly.

So far SoberGain has yet to hit the shelves, though research continues. But even if it works, it isn't really the answer. Those who celebrate New Year's Eve don't want to be sober, but simply to drink and not to count the cost. Dream on.

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VI-SPRING

This offer applies only at point of purchase to new beds ordered between 27 December 1995 and 6 February 1996. Mattress protector available in standard sizes: 90 x 190cm, 135 x 190

'Racier' Archers plough on into their 46th year

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE agricultural paraphernalia has changed from the days when the fields of Ambridge were ploughed by shire horses. But the storylines are as gripping today as they were 45 years ago when *The Archers* was first broadcast on New Year's Day.

In the opening episode, Phil Archer, then a young farmer, was discovered smooching in a car with Grace. The couple were not even engaged. Swearing, including the word "damned", was commonplace in 1951 and attracted not a single letter from listeners to the Home Service. Yet, if a character goes beyond "Goodness me" in 1995, sackloads of complaining letters are received at the programme's offices in the BBC's Pebble Mill studios.

The series will begin the new year today by focusing on the problems faced by the "brat pack", a new generation of teenagers led by the rebellious Kate Aldridge. Tonight's episode will end with a cliffhanger over the fate of Kate, who in the past has experimented with drugs and run off with New Age travellers.

Kate, 17, played by Keeley Bright, dives into a deep depression after being sacked from her job and declares that



Faces of the fictional brat pack from left, John Archer, Hayley Jordan, Roy Tucker and Kate Aldridge

she is going to celebrate until she drops. Vanessa Whitburn, the programme's editor, said that the trademark twist in the plot was designed to illustrate some of the harsh realities faced by young people in a world of rapidly changing social values, where hard drugs were becoming commonplace. She would not com-

ment further on tonight's episode.

Unlike television soap operas, *The Archers* has traditionally kept its storylines secret. As an added precaution, scripts for tonight's episode were shredded after it was recorded. Ms Whitburn, who formerly worked on the Channel 4 soap opera

Brookside, said: "The Archers now has a generation of *racier* young people, a brat pack — Kate, Roy Tucker, John Archer and Hayley Jordan. The programme has a younger listenership than the average for Radio 4, but the brat pack is not just there to appeal to young listeners. They are there to reflect what is going

on in the real world. I believe we have been able to introduce them without the programme losing its charm or humour."

The latest developments are a far cry from *The Archers'* early days as a post-war rural drama designed to inform farmers about modern agricultural developments. When it began, the two Archers'

shire horses, Blossom and Boaz, still worked on the farm and the entire village would pitch in with the haymaking.

Nowadays the farms are heavily mechanised. The programme lost its educational purpose in the early 1970s but still prides itself on the quality of its research and the accuracy of its reflections of rural life. Norman Painting, 71, who has played Phil Archer since the first episode in 1951, said: "If the programme had allowed itself to get all cosy, it would have been finished years ago. Our job has always been to reflect life as it is. Nothing has changed except life itself."

The only other surviving character from the first episode is Christine, Phil's sister. In 1951, she was working as an assistant in Boreham Dairies.

Two other surviving characters appeared in the first year. Peggy Woolley, played by June Spencer, was originally married to Phil Archer's brother John (known as Jack). Her first husband died and she later married Jack Woolley. She first appeared in mid-January 1951. Tom Forrest, Doris Archer's brother, played by Bob Arnold, made his first appearance in the programme in March 1951.

ANNIVERSARY GUIDE TO AMBRIDGE

■ *The Archers* is Britain's longest-running drama serial. Launched on January 1, 1951. Nearly 12,000 episodes have been broadcast.

■ The theme tune was not specially written for the programme. It is called *Barwick Green* and comes from the suite *My Native Heath*, by the Yorkshire composer Arthur Wood.

■ Charles Collingwood, who plays Brian Aldridge, is married to Judy Bennett, who plays Shula Hebdon.

■ Real people who have played themselves in the series include the Duke of Westminster, Terry Wogan, Annette Rice, Dame Edna Everage and Britt Ekland.

■ Princess Margaret played herself in the 875th episode in 1984, when she visited an Ambridge fashion show held to raise funds for the NSPCC.

■ The Earl of Lichfield, cousin to the Queen, took the pictures at the 1985 wedding of Shula Archer and solicitor Mark Hebdon.

■ Susan Carter became the first Ambridge woman to be sent to jail when she was sentenced on December 23, 1993, to serve six months for harbouring her brother after an armed robbery. Listeners formed a "Free the Ambridge One" campaign and appealed to the Home Secretary for her release.

■ The oldest actor in the history of the programme was Chris Gittins, who was 86 when he recorded his last episode as Walter Gabriel.

■ There are 175 characters in the Archers, but only about seven appear in each episode. Four weeks of programmes are recorded in six days every month.

■ The most famous death in *The Archers* was when Grace Archer died after trying to rescue a horse from a barn fire on September 22, 1985. It was said that the BBC did it to spoil the launch of ITV that night.

■ Phillip Molloy, who plays William Grundy, is the real-life son of Terry Molloy, who plays Mike Tucker.

■ Lucy Davis, who plays Hayley Jordan, is the daughter of the comedian Jasper Carrott.

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Good health to year of advance in medicines

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

LAST year was not a revolutionary one for the introduction of medicines but it did see steady advances, particularly in the treatment of conditions that affect the daily life of hundreds of thousands of people.

The success of the Chief Medical Officer's campaign for mass vaccination against measles, reducing the death and long-term disease that used to accompany epidemics, will make the year memorable, as will the dramatic reduction in the number of cases of Hib meningitis after the establishment of injections against it.

Reliable vaccination against the principal cause of bacterial meningitis in this country, meningococcal group B, is awaited but the pharmaceutical industry is spending millions of pounds researching this, and immunologists are attempting to unravel the mystery as to why such a frequent marauder in our throats and noses occasionally wrecks such sudden, terrible destruction.

Although the introduction of the new generation of antidepressants, the SERT re-uptake inhibitors such as Prozac or Seroxat, has not had much influence on the constant danger of suicide in depressed patients it has reduced the side effects which an already gloomy patient is asked to tolerate.

The treatment of heart failure and high blood pressure continues to benefit from increased use of the ACE inhibitors. The hypertension agent Cozaar, which is an angiotensin antagonist, rather than an inhibitor, has been marketed this year; unlike the existing ACE inhibitors it does not cause a troublesome chronic cough.

One event which is as certain in the human lifecycle as death is that all women who survive will go through a

menopause. The dangers of cardiovascular disease, loss of bone density, disease to gums and genital atrophy need, when there are no contraindications, pharmaceutical relief. Fosamax is a non-estrogenic treatment introduced last year to treat osteoporosis in those women who cannot take the usual forms of HRT. It effectively strengthens all bones.

Standard HRT has improved too. Tridesta, the three-monthly HRT pack which therefore produced pre-menstrual-type symptoms only four times a year, has become established and a new drug Kliofem is now marketed which provides constant daily standard HRT treatment: it is suitable for women over 54 or for those who have had no periods for a year.

Perhaps the most useful introduction to the HRT market is the Menocrest patch in which the hormones are incorporated in the adhesive, rather than in a separate reservoir. The advantage is that as the new patch does not contain alcohol it will not cause skin irritation. After a few weeks of treatment of the older type of patches many women's buttocks were studed with the fading areas of an inflammatory action.

Treatment of infections continues to improve. Drugs have been introduced that supplement those already available against HIV, and Wellviro is now available for pneumonia caused by pneumococci which frequently complicates Aids. A value to a great many more patients is improved treatment against herpes, Valtrex, and Lamivudine against thrush.

Last year saw preparations against various cancers: taxotere (Tocotaxel) for advanced cancer of the breast and De-Capeyti for late cancer of the prostate.

Safer painkiller should cut deaths

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A SAFER brand of the common painkiller paracetamol, which could save hundreds of deaths from liver failure, is to be launched this month.

The "new" formulation was invented more than 20 years ago, but has never been sold widely. In the same time there have been more than 2,000 deaths from paracetamol overdoses.

Although standard paracetamol is safe at the correct dose — a maximum of eight 500mg tablets in 24 hours — it is more dangerous than many other drugs in overdose. A single dose of 15 tablets requires a person to have their stomach pumped.

About 150 deaths and 30,000 hospital admissions are caused each year by para-

cetamol poisoning. Most cases are attempted suicides, but accidental poisonings also occur.

The new safe paracetamol, called Paracetamol, is expected to be in chemists' shops this month. The tablets sell for about the same price as branded paracetamol.

Roger Jones, managing director of Penn Pharmaceuticals, the company making the new product, said he had decided to sell it after talking to NHS poison units around the country. "The technology to save people from paracetamol poisoning has been available since the 1970s. But the companies selling paracetamol hoped it would die a death and people would forget about it."

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LOUIS ARMSTRONG.



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Public faces and political secrets of 1965, the first full year of the Labour Government

When the gallows came down and hemlines kept going up



The new faces of power: Harold Wilson and his Chancellor of the Exchequer, James Callaghan

REPORTS BY
NIGEL WILLIAMSON

IT WAS the first full year of Labour government for 15 years. Churchill died, hanging was ended, and the "permissive society" was thought to be in full swing.

Secret Cabinet papers from 1965 are released for scrutiny today under the 30-year rule, focussing attention on a year that bridged two ages. Mods and Rockers were still fighting on Britain's seaforts: 56 were arrested in Brighton at Easter. But pop culture was moving into a new phase: Bob Dylan was going electric and the Beatles, whose album *Help!* was on sale at 12s 6d, smoked marijuana in the lavatories at the Palace before picking up their MBEs. The traitor Kim Philby had his OBE cancelled by the Queen. Jean Shrimpton caused consternation at the Mel-



Jean Shrimpton, left, lifted hemlines, police quelled seaside violence, and the Post Office tower rose above all

bourne races with the shortness of her mini-dress. The new fashion caused British customs officers to redefine tax-free children's clothes. Previous exemption had been determined by hem-length: the mini meant it was now to be determined by bust-size. Mary Whitehouse

launched her first campaign to combat "BBC bad taste and irresponsibility". An opinion poll showed that 94 per cent of the country belonged to a church and 98 per cent believed in God.

The first woman High Court judge, Elizabeth Lane, was appointed. Reggie Kray

got married, with good-luck messages wished from Barbara Windsor and Judy Garland among others. Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were arrested for the Moors murders.

Cigarette advertising was abolished on television. The first all-digit telephone numbers replaced named ex-

changes. Under Harold Wilson's "white heat" of technology, Concorde was given the go-ahead and the 620ft Post Office tower, then Britain's tallest building, opened in London.

In sport, Cassius Clay knocked out Sonny Liston and Floyd Patterson. Liver-

pool won the FA Cup for the first time and, in Alf Garnett's finest hour, West Ham United won the European Cup Winners' Cup. The first substitute was allowed in League football. Keith Peacock of Charlton Athletic. The South African cricket team toured England — the last tests between the two countries for 29 years — and John Edrich hit 510 against New Zealand.

Package holidays were

starting to take off, and two weeks on the Costa del Sol cost £66 16s.

The average British house cost only £3,660.

A pint of bitter was 9s 9d.

As the escalating

war in Vietnam and UDI in Rhodesia, the nation was entertained by the exploits of Goldie, the golden eagle, who escaped from London Zoo not once but twice, causing traffic jams of well-wishers and sightseers in Regent's Park.

□ Additional reporting: Adam Williamson

Prime Minister had to balance private support for Johnson with appeasing the Left

Wilson wanted to send troops to back US in Indo-China

Vietnam
HAROLD WILSON would have liked to have committed British troops to support the American military action in Vietnam, he told President Johnson. But by the autumn of 1965, concern about British public reaction was so strong that the Government commissioned an unprecedented secret poll among "elite opinion formers".

A private telegram to the President, dated August 1965, shows that Wilson went further in his support for the American action than he ever admitted. Publicly, the Prime Minister maintained a balancing act between support for an ally and appeasing the anti-American views of the Labour Left.

However, he wrote in the telegram: "I can see no alternative to your policy of strengthening your forces in

and courageous policy in Vietnam."

The Cabinet papers show a growing concern with public opinion over British support for the Americans. In March, Wilson sent a telegram to Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, who was in Washington. The Labour Left was opposed to the military build-up and, with a small Commons majority, Wilson was anxious to avoid trouble. He told Stewart that the Americans should be left in no doubt about the strength of feeling here and about the difficulties we are facing. There is a danger of widespread anti-Americanism."

He continued: "You will realise that the American decision to use gas, even though it be non-lethal, coming on top of the use of napalm, has greatly aggravated the concern felt here in Parliament and indeed more widely."

At the same time Wilson dispatched Patrick Gordon Walker, the former Foreign Secretary, on a fact-finding mission to South-East Asia. His report to the Prime Minister also recognised the need to placate public opinion. Gordon Walker concluded: "We should search for a policy which, while backing America loyally, allows us a certain more apparent independence of view."

By September concern about public support for British policy was such that the Foreign Office wrote to Wilson saying that opposition was "by no means confined to communists, fellow travellers and professional anti-Americans". The Foreign Office asked permission to conduct what it described as "an innovation": a poll of "elite opinion, rather than the public". Wilson agreed to a suggestion that the poll should be kept secret and those interviewed were not to know who was sponsoring the research.

By the end of the year Mark Abrams, head of Research Services, which had carried out the poll, was able to reassure Wilson before he flew to Washington on December 16. Abrams summarised his findings in a letter to the Prime Minister in three key points: there was "substantial support" for British policy; European policy was regarded as "more important" than the Far East; and there was "no faith" in any action by the United Nations.

The "substantial support" did not extend as far as the Labour back benches. While he was in Washington, Wilson received a telegram from 68 Labour MPs demanding that the United States should immediately cease its bombing of North Vietnam.

Wilson said it was a probability that there would be "a terrible conflict and bloodshed". In fact, on the same day, Wilson had sent a telegram to Stewart in Washington, saying: "We do not think that the Russians would wish to make any attempt to intervene."

In a series of candid and often moving telegrams to President Johnson about the crisis, Wilson described his visit to Salisbury: "It was an exhausting and in many ways a depressing week, depressing because so many people have their minds in blinders and they are wrapped up in a cocoon of self-delusion."

Johnson: expressed his gratitude for support



Dusty Springfield in Johannesburg in December 1964, expelled for performing before a multiracial audience

Foreign Office blocked apartheid protest over singer's expulsion

SOUTH AFRICA

THE Prime Minister wanted Britain to protest to South Africa over the expulsion of Dusty Springfield for singing to multiracial audiences, but was overruled by the Foreign Office.

Shortly afterwards the singer Adam Faith also left South Africa in controversy after refusing to perform before segregated audiences, Whitehall once again washed its hands. Both singers had only themselves to blame, the Foreign Office told Downing Street in a confidential memorandum.

Dusty Springfield, who topped the charts in the mid-Sixties with songs such as *I Only Want To Be With You* and *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*, was deported with her band The Echoes after performing before a multiracial audience in Cape Town in December 1964. Her manager had said they

were presented with an "ultimatum" soon after arriving in South Africa, warning that they must not perform in front of multiracial audiences. This was contrary to her contract, which made clear that she would not appear in segregated venues, he said.

The manager maintained it was only because of this proviso that he had taken the group to South Africa, in defiance of a Musicians' Union ban on artists appearing there. Wilson saw the telegram from British officials in Pretoria and wrote across it: "Are we protesting?" Downing Street officials then wrote to the Foreign Office seeking action.

The hasty scribble in pencil was typical of Wilson's determination to get involved in every aspect of public life, particularly in the early years after Labour's election victory in 1964. But the Foreign Office replied: "Miss Springfield was not arrested and on a strictly legal view the South Africans appear to have acted within their rights".

A Labour Prime Minister's abhorrence of apartheid counted for little in the face of diplomatic adherence to the strict letter of international law.

A month later in January 1965 Adam Faith was sued for breach of contract by a Cape Town theatre manager when he refused to appear before a whites-only audience.

Faith's manager had apparently signed a contract saying the singer would not perform to multiracial audiences. The singer was allowed to leave the country only after a bond was offered to cover the suit against him.

The Foreign Office concluded that trouble was bound to ensue "if artists embark on foreign tours without first ensuring that the arrangements comply both to the requirements of local law and custom". Such an oversight did "not provide grounds for government intervention on their behalf".

One official blamed the media and wrote to the Downing Street office: "These two got into trouble as a result of statements published in the press which made an issue of apartheid."

BBC ads call
Tony Benn urged the Government to consider allowing advertising on the BBC. Mr Benn, minister for broadcasting, said the BBC's deficit was increasing by £300,000 a week and that opening up the corporation to advertisements may be essential to avert a cash crisis.

Earlier release

Papers released under the "30-year rule" include a memorandum by Harold Wilson which led to a change from papers being kept secret for 50 years, as was the case since 1958. Before then few government documents under 100 years old were made available for public study.

Card vote
A House of Commons Christmas card, with a scene showing Alexander III of Scotland paying homage to Edward I of England, annoyed Willie Ross, the Scottish Secretary. It was too late to change, but alternatives were offered from store to those who took exception.

Banknote plot to catch fugitives

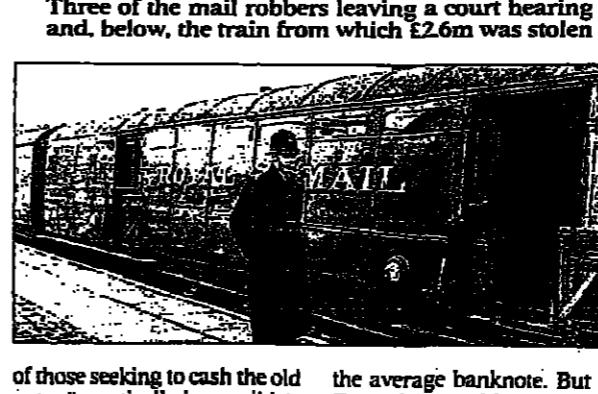
GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

THE Government proposed preventing the great train robbers from enjoying their ill-gotten gains by withdrawing all banknotes from circulation in 1965.

Under Harold Wilson's plan, bank customers would have been asked to surrender their old money for notes with a new design, leaving those robbers still at liberty holding worthless pieces of paper. But the Treasury and the Bank of England dismissed the scheme as impractical.

Mr Wilson first aired the idea in the summer of 1965, almost two years after the Great Train Robbers escaped with sacks of mail containing more than £2½ million in banknotes. The Treasury was asked to provide costings but James Callaghan, the Chancellor, never shared Mr Wilson's enthusiasm for the plan.

But in July 1965 Mr Wilson proposed a second, modified scheme, that all notes not bearing the signature of the current chief cashier at the Bank of England be made illegal tender. The bank again



of those seeking to cash the old notes "practically impossible". Even then Wilson had one last try. He demanded, and was furnished with, information on the dates of recent chief cashiers and the life-span

of the average banknote. But by December, with Rhodesia having declared UDI and the situation growing ever more grave in Vietnam, he appeared to have other things on his mind and accepted defeat.

President stakes re-election campaign on battle against Republican 'extremism'



'Comeback Kid' resumes lead as White House race begins

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

IT SEEMED inconceivable until recently, but America's presidential election year begins today with Bill Clinton the clear favourite to become only the third Democratic President to win re-election since the Civil War. The others were Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt.

If Mr Clinton does win his final campaign of a lifetime spent running for office, this resilient politician will truly have earned his favorite of the 'Comeback Kid'.

This time last year the Republicans were triumphantly hoisting their standard on Capitol Hill for the first time in 40 years, having routed the Democrats in congressional elections that were seen as a massive repudiation of the President.

The media were predicting a new era of Republican dominance lasting well into the 21st century. Newt Gingrich was crowned America's de facto president, and the genuine article was left patently protesting his relevance — "I don't consider myself a titular head of state".

Mr Clinton's legislative programme was in tatters. Polls



ELECTION '96

showed that two-thirds of Democrats wanted to dump him. There was speculation that party elders would ask him to step aside in 1996 and make way for Al Gore, the Vice-President. It was considered inevitable that he would be challenged for the Democratic nomination, and quite possibly he would be the first sitting President to be denied his party's nomination since Chester Arthur in 1884.

As it is, Mr Clinton now enjoys a double-digit lead over Robert Dole, his likely Republican opponent. He has amassed a \$36 million (23 million) war chest. The economy is sound and the country at peace. Above all, he has skilfully averted a debilitating challenge for the Democratic nomination, which means he

can stay above the fray and conserve his resources for the next three months as the Republicans batter each other in the primaries. No Democratic President since Roosevelt has enjoyed that luxury.

This election, the 33rd since George Washington became the first President in 1789, should have been the Republicans' for the taking. They have won five of the last seven, and in 1992 Mr Clinton squeaked home with just 43 per cent of the vote after Ross Perot split the opposition. The Republicans have, however, made themselves the underdogs.

In retrospect, Mr Gingrich's rise has been the President's salvation. The Speaker has not only proved to be an unlovable figure, but appears to have overestimated the mandate he and his fellow Republican revolutionaries received last year. That has let Mr Clinton back into the game.

Moving sharply towards the Right under the tutelage of Dick Morris, his new political guru, the President has co-opted the popular parts of the Republicans' programme — shrinking government, cutting the deficit, devolving power — but has astutely taken stands whenever he believed the "revolution" was leaving

the public behind. He has established himself as a bulwark against Republican "extremism". The Republicans may have won the battle of ideas, but the President has been winning public opinion.

Mr Clinton's other big break has been the unwillingness of almost every heavyweight Republican to spend a grueling year seeking their party's nomination. The result is that Mr Clinton will in all probability be faced by a man whom James Carville, his 1992 campaign strategist, has described as a "72-year-old legislative mechanic".

Mr Dole lacks vision and generates little excitement, but it is hard to see how he can fail to win the nomination in this, his third attempt. He has 21 of America's 31 state governors working for him, more than \$24 million to spend, and a huge poll lead over eight opponents who are all, as one of their number candidly admitted, "charismatically challenged". Neither Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, nor Lamar Alexander, former Tennessee Governor, have managed to break from the pack and are now in danger of being eclipsed by Steve Forbes, a publishing tycoon with no political experience whatever.

This year's primary season, compressed into six weeks by California's unusually early contest, gives Mr Dole an added advantage as the best-known and best-funded candidate, and in any case the Republicans, unlike the Democrats, almost always nominate their early frontrunner.

It is unlikely to be an inspiring election. Lacking a strong record, Mr Clinton will have to run against Republican "extremism". Having won as the candidate of change, he will now present himself as a defender of all that is popular about the status quo. The Man from Hope (his home in Arkansas) will thus become the Man from Fear.

Mr Dole, who would be the oldest man ever to reach the White House, will seek to turn his age to his advantage by making this an election about character and leadership — Mr Clinton's weak spots.

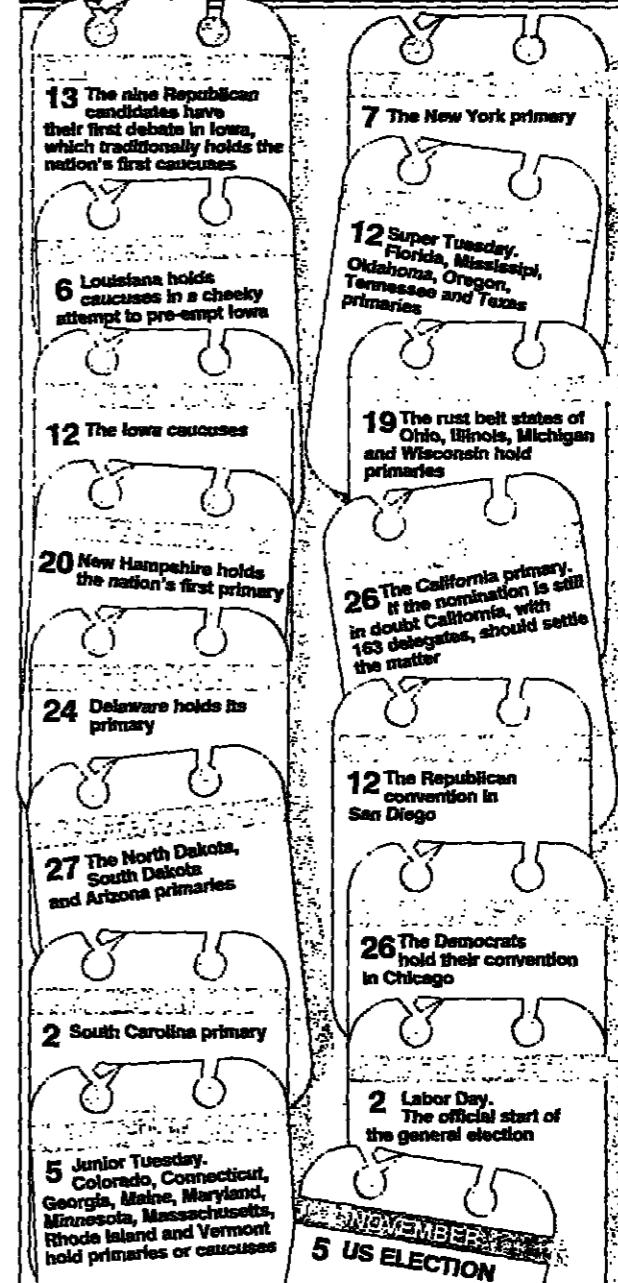
He will allude to the heroism that nearly cost him his life in 1945, his long fight back to health, his record of experience and legislative accomplishment during 35 years in Washington. "It's time for adult leadership," he says.

The pendulum could yet swing back in Mr Dole's favour. Mr Clinton's deployment of American troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina could go horribly wrong.

Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, could produce a devastating report on the Whitewater affair.

The Republican revolution's present unpopularity could evaporate if it does genuinely balance the nation's books for the first time in decades. Conversely, Mr Dole may fail to last the pace for the next 11 months or Mr Perot's fledgling third party may again split the Republican vote.

ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE



NEW HAMPSHIRE ADVANTAGE

PRESIDENTS who faced no challenge for their party's nomination in New Hampshire have always gone on to win re-election, but those challenged never have.

Year	Incumbent	Opponent	President's fate
1952	Truman	Eisenhower (55%)	Dropped out
1956	Eisenhower	None	Landslide win
1960	Johnson	None	Landslide win
1964	Johnson	Eugene McCarthy (42%)	Dropped out
1968	Nixon	None	Landslide win
1972	Ford	Ronald Reagan (48%)	Lost to Carter
1976	Carter	Edward Kennedy (48%)	Lost to Reagan
1980	Reagan	None	Landslide win
1984	Bush	Pat Buchanan (37%)	Lost to Clinton

5 US ELECTION

Budget deal hopes rise

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton and Republican leaders ended their third day of intensive talks to end the US budget crisis at noon yesterday on an optimistic note. They agreed to reconvene tomorrow when sides said there could be a fairly swift agreement.

Meanwhile, there were hopes that the US Senate, in a rare Sunday session, would vote to send 280,000 civil servants, laid off since December 16, back to work.

The long shutdown has



Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, and President Clinton are due to hold more talks today to end the cash crisis

Harriman family settles its multi-million dollar feud

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PAMELA HARRIMAN, the American Ambassador in Paris, has settled a 15-month legal dispute involving the loss of millions of dollars with the family of her late husband.

In doing so, she has also joined forces with them in pursuing claims against the legal and financial advisers chosen by W. Averell Harriman as trustees of his estate. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but they resolved lawsuits in which Mrs Harriman, a Democratic fund-raiser, was accused with the advisers of squandering more than \$35 million (£22.7 million) on bad investments and in borrowing from the heirs' trust funds.

The English-born Mrs Harriman, had been portrayed as growing weary of the dispute. She said in a statement: "I am

pleased to have finally been able to achieve a settlement of all the issues separating my late husband's heirs and me."

Harriman was a seasoned diplomat who was Ambassador in London, and a skilled financier with a family fortune from the Union Pacific railway. On his death ten years ago, Mrs Harriman inherited half his \$65 million estate and became a trustee of trusts he set up for two daughters by an earlier marriage, six grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

The statement said the settlement resolved "all pending litigation" between the heirs and Mrs Harriman "through a mutual and reciprocal redistribution of family assets."

The family had alleged that there had been disastrous investments in a New Jersey

resort that had failed as a Playboy hotel and in a factory making soles for running shoes. One fund containing \$25 million had been reduced to \$3 million, they claimed. Mrs Harriman and the advisers denied any wrongdoing.

To raise funds, Mrs Harriman sold paintings by Renoir, Matisse and Picasso for \$18.6 million at Christie's in New York a year ago.

According to *The Washington Post*, Mrs Harriman was close to a settlement last June that would have given the heirs \$20 million but would have required her to sell all her paintings and her mansion in Washington. She did not sign, saying she needed to maintain a net worth of \$10 million and an annual income of between \$700,000 and \$800,000, the newspaper said.

Grateful Dead may be revived

New York: Jerry Garcia, the late leader of the Grateful Dead, may soon "live" again, thanks to a plan by surviving band members to release a new album from tapes he made before he died (James Barnes writes).

Garcia's posthumous comeback is being planned by Phil Lesh, the group's bass-player, who hopes to salvage enough material from sessions recorded before Garcia's death in a California drug-treatment clinic last August.

The Grateful Dead pioneered acid-rock music in the 1960s, and under Garcia's leadership went on to achieve cult status.

Lesh and the rest of the group are considering recording new music around Garcia's guitar and vocal tracks, giving him a new release from beyond the grave.

US lobster trade in hot water with animal rights activists

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN Mary Tyler Moore met a 16lb lobster named Spike at a restaurant in Malibu, the television star was so appalled that she offered to buy it for \$1,000 (£650) to spare it a painful death in a pot of boiling water.

The restaurant refused, saying Spike was a pet. Moved to action, however, Ms Tyler Moore became a leading campaigner in the growing movement in America for "lobster liberation". During this year's Lobster Festival in Maine, the state that harvests more than half the country's lobsters, a local newspaper published a letter from her.

"Marine biologists report that lobsters are fascinating beings with complex social interactions, long childhoods and awkward adolescences," she wrote. "Like humans, they

flirt with one another and have been seen walking 'claw-in-claw'. And like humans, lobsters feel pain."

Flushed with success from their campaign against fur, animal rights groups have shifted their focus to the tasty crustaceans. Campaigners recently "liberated" 16 lobsters from an Arizona shop. Activists paid \$16 a pound to release the "Tucson 16" and another \$700 to ship them to Maine.

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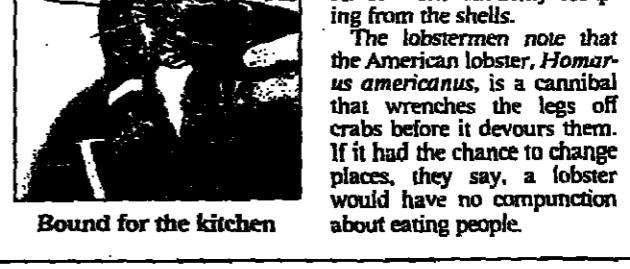
be returned to the Atlantic. The operation provoked ridicule among Maine residents, particularly since only 14 of the creatures survived the trip.

Not surprisingly, the \$20 million-a-year lobster industry challenges the assertion that the creatures feel pain

and that their scream when plunged into boiling water is a cry of agony. Lobsters, the Maine Lobster Promotion Council reports, have no vocal cords. The scream comes from air or water suddenly escaping from the shells.

The lobstermen note that the American lobster, *Homarus americanus*, is a cannibal that wrenches the legs of crabs before it devours them. If it had the chance to change places, they say, a lobster would have no compunction about eating people.

The lobsters are bound for the kitchen



Cairo blocks Florida show

St Petersburg, Florida: The Florida International Museum has sold 82,000 exhibition tickets to lovers of ancient Egyptian artefacts, but Cairo says they may not go on display on January 10, because the museum has violated a \$10 million (£6.45 million) deal for a five-day American tour. Officials in Florida say the Egyptian Government raised the issue of the deal just before a final contract was to be signed. (Reuters)

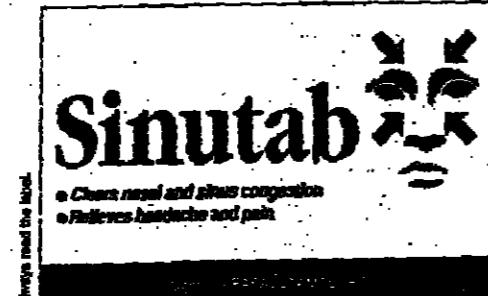
Texas weapons ban is lifted

Houston: Texans will today be able to carry concealed weapons for the first time in 125 years. The law overturns an 1871 ban in response to violence in the Wild West. So far, 171,000 people have requested applications for permits to carry weapons. Local governments have greeted the new law with a wave of regulations banning the use of guns in public places. (Reuters)

Rioters fail to flush out mayor

Buenos Aires: An Argentinian mayor locked himself in the town hall toilets for 15 hours to escape rioters protesting over plans to dismiss 120 workers. Alejandro Quiñón, the Mayor of Milagro, in La Rioja province, who was freed by police, said the rioters wanted to kill him. (Reuters)

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Dini takes over reins of Europe as his grip on power in Italy weakens

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ITALY takes over the six-month presidency of the European Union from Spain today in a state of political chaos remarkable even by Italian standards. Not even veteran observers of Italy's 54 postwar governments are sure whether the caretaker Prime Minister, the lugubrious 64-year-old Lamberto Dini, will last in office until July, when Italy hands over the EU baton to Ireland.

At the weekend, when his year-

long emergency mandate expired, Signor Dini wrapped up a 1996 budget with tight spending targets and then offered his resignation to President Scalfaro. Signor Scalfaro told Signor Dini to let parliament decide his fate after the new year break, but Italy's numerous parties remain at odds over whether elections should be held during Italy's tenure of the EU presidency.

Silvio Berlusconi, the mercurial tycoon whose Centre-Right coalition collapsed a year ago and who goes on trial on corruption charges

this month, has until now been demanding elections to try to bring Signor Dini down. At the weekend, however, he called for a broad all-party coalition to govern for the next two years, saying that Italy faces a constitutional crisis comparable with the creation of democracy after Mussolini.

Behind the turmoil lies the fear that despite Signor Dini's widely applauded efforts to impose budgetary discipline, Italy cannot meet the Maastricht criteria for joining a single currency in 1999. It is Europe's misfortune that while

Maastricht reform is coming to a head — with EU enlargement, expanded majority voting and monetary union all on the agenda — Italy's own political reforms are still in flux.

It is three years since electoral reform and the *Mani Pulite* (Clean Hands) anti-corruption drive combined to overturn 40 years of rule by the Christian Democrats. The explosion of new parties and the apparently endless uncovering of skulduggery in high places have produced regeneration, but not yet

It may fall to Signor Dini to usher in one, particularly if the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) supports him. Signor Dini was plucked from the central bank to be Signor Berlusconi's Treasury Minister, and pledged loyalty to his former mentor when he succeeded him a year ago.

Despite disavowals, however, Signor Dini shows distinct signs of enjoying power and of wanting to keep it. His aim is to reduce Italy's budget deficit — nearly 8 per cent of GDP — to something nearer the

Maastricht target of 3 per cent. "We may have to ask Italians to make greater sacrifices than they are used to," said one senior official.

Given Italy's domestic turmoil, its EU agenda is modest: it emphasises measures to combat unemployment, and Mediterranean concerns. On the other hand, the tide of pro-European opinion still runs strong in Italy, and Signor Dini will want to build on the decision by the Madrid EU summit at the end of the Spanish presidency to adhere to the Maastricht timetable for a single currency.

Signor Dini's immediate task will be to persuade the prickly President Chirac to attend the Turin summit in March to mark the opening of the inter-governmental conference on revising Maastricht. They have barely been on speaking terms since Madrid, where Signor Dini condemned French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. M Chirac retorted that he would probably have much better things to do in the spring of 1996 than visit Turin.

US Army engineers construct the largest pontoon bridge since the Second World War

Tanks roll into Bosnia after Sava bridge is built

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

COLUMNS of American tanks rolled across the Sava River into Bosnia yesterday after US Army engineers completed constructing a bridge.

The building of the pontoon bridge hampered for days by wintry weather, will finally enable the US First Armoured Division to deploy in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The division forms the bulk of the 20,000 American contingent of the Nato peace implementation force. About 2,000 soldiers are already at the American headquarters in Tuzla in northern Bosnia.

Last week, the swollen Sava River overflowed, flooding the US Army engineers' camp and

destroying what work had been accomplished. Yesterday, however, US Humvees and 70-tonne Abrams tanks were at last able to cross from Croatia into Bosnia using the 600-yard long pontoon bridge, the largest built by the US Army since the Second World War when Americans crossed the Rhine in 1945 to march against Hitler's forces. About 1,000 vehicles carrying 400 troops were expected to cross the bridge yesterday.

The Nato mission has got off to a bold start by bulldozing checkpoints and clearing roads through Serb-held territory, where the United Nations had not dared to venture.

The efficacy of the Nato operation has come into question, however, after spokesmen said it was not within Nato's mandate to enforce freedom of movement for civilians.

One of the pillars of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Peace Accord is that civilians are able to move freely throughout Bosnia. However, people on both sides of the war say they are terrified of crossing into enemy territory without an escort, service that Ifor has refused to provide.

A Muslim man, interviewed on Bosnian television, said he and his family were beaten by Serbs when their car was stopped crossing the Serb-held



The first American tank crosses the new bridge over the Sava River into Bosnia

suburb of Ilidza, on the outskirts of Sarajevo. Another Bosnian civilian, a lorry driver, vanished and is reported to have been detained by the Serbs in the town.

"Ifor sees violence or life-

endangering incidents, Ifor is mandated to intervene," said Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Raynor, a British spokesman. However, he said Ifor would not investigate the reported incidents because that was the job of the local authorities. "Ifor can't be the local police force," he said.

Ifor has agreed to provide escorts on the road to Gorazde. "That is a specific area to which we have a commitment under the peace agreement — the interim route to Gorazde," said Colonel Raynor. "In principle, escorting of vehicles will not be done by Ifor," he added.

At the weekend, the first civilian bus ran from Sarajevo to Gorazde, a Muslim enclave east of Sarajevo that has been isolated throughout the three and a half years of war. Crowds of people greeted the vehicle's arrival.

Admiral Leighton Smith, the American commander of the Nato operation in Bosnia, rejected at the weekend a Serb demand to extend the deadline for pulling out the Bosnian-Serb Army from Serb-held areas around Sarajevo. Admiral Smith, who had agreed to consider the request, said he did not have the authority to alter the terms of the peace

agreement and the deadlines would remain intact.

In spite of their disappointment about certain aspects of the Nato mission, the citizens of Sarajevo are entering the new year in high spirits. The streets of the Bosnian capital are packed with shoppers, and the stores, whose shattered windows and barren shelves

bore testimony to the travails

of war only two months ago, are now full of goods.

The city is already playing host to celebrity tourists. Yesterday, Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock band U2, was on hand to celebrate New Year's Eve. "The celebration of the new year here is a festival that all of the traditions of the city have in common," said the musician at a press conference

which was attended by Mohamed Sacirbey, the Bosnian Foreign Minister.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra, a third of whose members either fled the city or were killed during the siege of Sarajevo, has reconvened to stage a New Year's Eve concert at the National Theatre.

On the streets of the city,

clowns from the Barcelona-based group, Clowns Without Borders, held a parade as children with painted faces ran alongside.

□ Tuzla: Bosnians planning

to celebrate their first peaceful

New Year's Day with the

sound of gunfire were told not to let off any shots near the US

airbase here for fear of frightening the Americans, local

radio said yesterday. (AFP)

Major reshuffles top diplomats in Europe

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KEY appointments are shortly to be made in the Government and Foreign Office machine as John Major prepares his strategy for difficult negotiations in the inter-governmental conference later this year.

The changes, involving the ambassadors in Paris and Bonn, top diplomats in Whitehall and the Prime Minister's two principle foreign affairs advisers, are some of the most far-reaching for years. They are caused partly by retirement, but are also part of a reshuffle to give the Government as much expertise as it can muster for the European negotiations.

An announcement will soon be made that Michael Jay, the Deputy Under-Secretary in the Foreign Office, will succeed Sir Christopher Mallaby as Ambassador to Paris. He will play a crucial role in consolidating the good relations with France and seeking a broad alliance with President Chirac in the coming negotiations.

Mr Jay will be replaced by Paul Lever, an Assistant

Under-Secretary of State in charge of security policy, who takes up his new job tomorrow. Mr Lever will have to draw up the options for Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, as they fight federalist demands from the Continent.

Mr Jay's appointment at the age of 49 breaks the tradition of Paris being a post from which ambassadors retire. The post has become so enmeshed in European politics and so crucial to the Government's attempt to prevent the inter-governmental conference taking radical leaps towards a closer European union that Mr Major wanted in the post a high-flyer who has spent the past five years immersed in EU politics.

Two other pivotal changes will be in Downing Street. Kaderine Lyne, the Prime Minister's foreign affairs adviser, is leaving this month to join British Gas. He has been a key negotiator in the Irish peace talks. He will be succeeded by John Holmes, who has headed one of the two Foreign Office

departments dealing with the EU, and has served previously in Delhi and Moscow.

Christopher Meyer, Mr Major's press spokesman who was summoned home from Washington to sharpen up the Prime Minister's public image, is due to leave Downing Street soon, having completed the two years that he intended to serve there.

He will likely move to one of the two Western European embassies that will need new ambassadors when Sir Nigel Broomfield retires from Bonn and Sir Patrick Fairweather leaves Rome. Mr Meyer, a German speaker, is strongly tipped for Bonn.

The changes leave one senior diplomat disappointed. Pauline Neville-Jones, the political director in the Foreign Office, is Britain's most senior woman diplomat and had been strongly tipped to be the first to head a large embassy such as Bonn or Washington.

She failed to get Paris and is known not to want Bonn, where she has already served. She is shortly to be replaced by Jeremy Greenstock, her current deputy, but no clear new position is open for her. Miss Neville-Jones was a member of the Contact Group where she was Britain's chief negotiator over Bosnia-Herzegovina. She was one of those who signed the Dayton agreement.

Yesterday it emerged that Lord Gilmore, the head of the Foreign Office until last year who was ennobled in the New Year's Honours List, is to join the Centre for European Reform, a think-tank to be launched this month which will, among other initiatives, help to develop European policy for the Labour Party.

Yeltsin promises to keep up reforms

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin made a new year's resolution to pursue his course of economic reform in Russia, in spite of the Communist election victory, regarded as a massive no-confidence vote in his policies.

The Russian leader, who returned to work on Friday after nearly two months recuperating from a heart attack, warned his countrymen that the alternative to reform was a return to the bleakest period of Soviet rule.

"It is in Russia's national interests to develop democracy, to strengthen law and order and to continue economic reforms," he said. The remarks were unlikely to calm the jittery business community in Russia, which fears the Communists may repeat their election triumph in the presidential race in June.

Western investors in Russia fear their assets could be seized overnight if the Communists carry out their threat to nationalise state industries. The loss of confidence caused by the Communist win may already have claimed its first victim. Last week Stet, Italy's state-controlled telecommunications company, suspended its offer for 25 per cent of Sviazinvest, its Russian counterpart, halting a planned \$900 million investment.

"I think it is unlikely anyone is going to invest in any new, large projects in Russia until it becomes clear who will be running the country after June's presidential elections," said one Western banker.

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Meyer: tipped to be Bonn Ambassador

Neville-Jones: no clear position in reshuffle

French forgers threaten new European coins

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FORGERS have pumped millions of fake Frf 10 coins into the French economy, forcing the Government to issue shopkeepers with a new "counterfeit identification guide" and prompting fresh debate on the size, shape and colour of the single European currency. When the

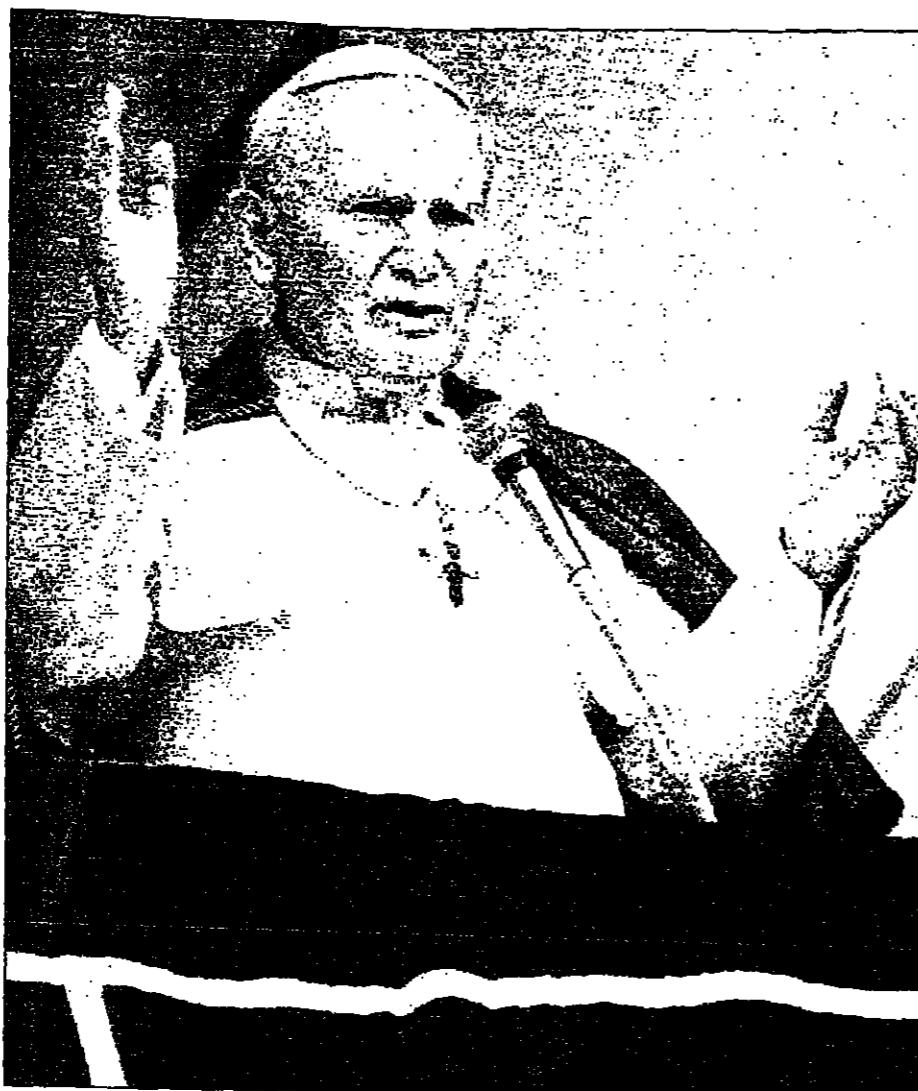
Frf 10 coin was introduced in 1988, its makers insisted the combination of metal alloys — a gold-coloured rim with a silver-coloured centre — made it impossible to duplicate. Ingenious forgers immediately proved otherwise.

Last year the directors of the EU's national mints provisionally agreed to produce providing forgers with a 90 per cent profit.

At the most conservative estimate, the counterfeitors have already made around Frf 60 million (£3.2 million).

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ly weakens



The Pope addressing the crowd gathered in St Peter's Square, Rome, yesterday

Zambian rioters attack Asians

FROM SCOTT STRAUS
IN LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

P. R. PATEL looks despondently around his ransacked dress-making factory. Paperwork, clothing scraps and buttons lie scattered across the shop floor.

"They finished my life," said Mr Patel, who emigrated from India decades ago. "From 1953 until now, to build this country, this factory. Now I'm 74 and thinking maybe I'll die."

"They" are black Zambians who struck Mr Patel's factory in late October during three days of rioting and looting aimed at Livingstone's well-heeled Asian community. Although the riots were sparked by an accusation of child murder, they have laid bare the resentment many blacks feel for Asians, who have excelled in commerce since the end of colonialism.

For three days, the rioters turned the tables. They picked shops and factories clean, smashed luxury cars, ransacked homes and even stole toilet seats, carpets and icons from the Hindu temple.

The riots, in which no one was hurt, began on October 27 after police arrested Mohanbai Patel at his furniture shop.

Earlier, police had arrested three black Zambians for the murders of black children, who were found with organs missing. One admitted to killing the children to "sell to Indians" and he identified Mr Patel, and another Asian man, arrested a week later.

Livingstone's mayor during the riots instructed police to protect government buildings and not shops. Asians say that a town councillor urged the rioters to burn their shops. Zambian immigration officials stopped all Asians from crossing into Zimbabwe.

Gilbert Cona, the councillor who allegedly incited the rioting, which he denies, said: "These people are very greedy. We gave them all they need and now they're after our hearts. I have no apologies for what happened."

The roughly 10,000 Asians in Zambia, with a population of nine million, say that a mass expulsion is not on the cards. However, many Asians in Livingstone say that they are preparing, reluctantly, to pack up and leave.

Nigeria turns boycott into political football

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA last night held out an olive branch to Nigeria after Lagos announced that its football team, the defending champions, would not take part in the African Cup of Nations tournament, the continent's equivalent of the World Cup, which begins in Johannesburg in two weeks.

In withdrawing Nigeria's team, Chief Jo Nwabodo, the Nigerian Minister of Sport, said he was doing so because the South African authorities had failed to give assurances about the safety of the players. President Mandela has led the drive to enforce an embargo on Nigeria in the

Gay South Africans come out of closet

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN CAPE TOWN

FROM the country's first gay tourism agency to massive raves across the country, South Africa is fast emerging from the closet of its repressive past in dramatic fashion.

Responding to the growing demand from overseas visitors searching for gay clubs and gay-friendly places, a married housewife from Cape Town last month launched GAYesCape, a travel agency aimed specifically at the international gay tourist market.

Advertisements on the Internet and in gay magazines have stirred huge interest from as far afield as Australia. The influx of growing numbers of gay tourists has spurred talk of the pink rand and the lavender market; meanwhile, the increasingly visible local gay community is undergoing a metamorphosis. While Cape Town has long had a gay presence, it maintained a comparatively low profile during the apartheid years because homosexuality was heavily stigmatised and homosexuals unashamedly discriminated against.

In South Africa gays are derogatively referred to as *moefie* (Afrikaans for "glove") — airline stewards are known as coffee *moefies* — and under legislation passed by the old regime homosexuality was effectively illegal.

The new sense of freedom and liberalisation engendered by President Mandela's Government is also reflected in the burgeoning rave scene. In Cape Town and Johannesburg rave clubs and parties are mushrooming and last night about 10,000 partygoers descended on a golf course in the heart of Cape Town to dance until 10am today with the help of a range of illegal stimulants.

"Mandela started the ball rolling when he gave people the freedom to do what they wanted," said Robin Sprong, 22, the baby-faced editor of *Evolver*, South Africa's first rave magazine. "You have this funky old man who wears cool shirts and has no hang-ups and because of him discrimination is quickly disappearing in South Africa. People just want to relax and rave on."

PRESIDENT YELTSIN and the Pope have both reappeared in public after recent illnesses to deliver new year messages to reassure the world that they are fully recovered.

Mr Yeltsin attended a new year reception in the Kremlin on Saturday and insisted that he had not ruled out standing for re-election in the June presidential election. He said he was still thinking about the question and would announce his decision at the beginning of next month.

The Pope, who was forced by fits to cut short his Christmas message, appeared at the window of his private apartments to deliver his Sunday Angelus prayer to the crowd in St Peter's Square. He looked well and relaxed after recuperating at Castelgandolfo, his holiday residence south of Rome, where local police said he had been for a three-hour walk in the mountains on Friday.

Last night, at his traditional end-of-year vespers in the Jesuit church of St Ignatius, in the centre of Rome, the Pope

appealed for moderation in welcoming the new year. "For Christians, the end of the solar year should not be marked by senseless euphoria typical of pagans throughout history," he said.

In a television address last evening, President Chirac of France, whose political health has been threatened by strikes, political turmoil and international criticism of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific, attempted to

revive confidence in France and repair the damage to his reputation done by his long silence during the country's civil unrest.

President Kwasniewski used his new year message to deliver a sharp political challenge to the West, saying that Poland's economic development and political stability were a mandate for the country's entry into the European Union and Nato. "We have well-meaning neighbours and

open borders," he said, adding that Poland's moves towards European integration were not directed against anyone.

"We will develop amicable bilateral relations with all countries of the East and West," he said.

President Mandela also dwelt in his message on South Africa's unprecedented social, political and economic stability and said the country was being rapidly transformed into a multiracial democracy.

He urged reconciliation between whites and blacks, and referred to South Africa's win in last year's Rugby World Cup, an event that did much to bring the country's races together.

Further north in Africa, a gloomier message was delivered by Antoine Nduwayo, the Prime Minister of Burundi. In a bleak new year assessment on Saturday, he forecast more bloodshed and suffering for his ethnically divided country. "The ideology of exclusion and genocide... continues to gain ground so that, if we do not watch out, our country will fall under the dictatorship of extremists and the perpetrators of genocide," he said.

In Sri Lanka, where civil war is also raging, officials forecast a better new year despite soaring defence expenditure and fears of Tamil terrorism. The Government said, however, that it would launch another onslaught against the Tamil Tigers, and G. L. Peiris, the Finance Minister, said: "This is a year for peace. We have to find the resources for it somehow."

The end of the year should not be marked by senseless euphoria

Leaders strike optimistic note

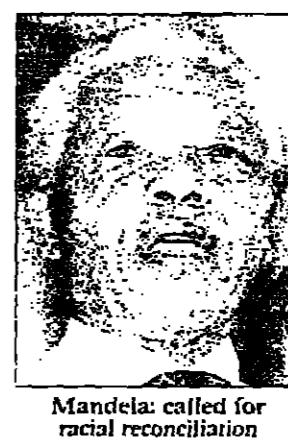
BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR



Chirac tried to repair his damaged reputation



Kwasniewski issued a challenge to the West



Mandela: called for racial reconciliation



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	24 monthly payments	£199.58	£254.90
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raises
tempo of
sombre
Test

25

Divided
loyalties
linger
beyond
disaster

26

Perfect
place to
cast for
golden
memories

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Charting
a course
in the
chase for
victory

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 1 1996

HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES - BUT NOT FOR ENGLAND



Shearer strikes for his hundredth Premiership goal for Blackburn Rovers, the second in a 2-1 victory against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, then begins the celebrations with his team-mates. Photographs: Stewart Kendall

Shearer runs up Premiership century in 124 games

Hundred-goal enigma

Rob Hughes, football correspondent, on a striker who never seems to fail for his club but seldom succeeds for his country

THE strike was deadly, and somehow the epitome of English football in 1995. Alan Shearer, his back to goal outside the penalty area, suddenly twisted and turned away from Gary Mabbutt and drove the ball, violently, decisively beyond the reach of Ian Walker, the Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper. Ewood Park, built, it sometimes seems, as a steel monument to the reliable goalscoring of Shearer, erupted in celebration of him becoming, easily, the first man to hit 100 goals since the FA Carling Premiership began 3½ years ago.

For sheer strength of mind and muscle, for his refusal to be inhibited either by serious knee injury or by the knocks of his trade, Shearer deservedly stands ahead of Les Ferdinand, 78 Premiership goals, Andy Cole, 72, Ian Wright, 66, and the apprentice, Robbie Fowler, already 53.

Yet, when Shearer swaps the blue and white of Blackburn Rovers for the white of England, he is like Superman without his cape. He has had a barren year. In fact, it is 15 months and ten internationals, since Shearer last scored. When representing Blackburn in Europe, he also loses the plot: his only goal in six Champions' League games this season came from the penalty spot.

Ten of Shearer's 34 league goals last season were also penalties; but back to the hundredth Alan Shearer Premiership goal, scored in his 12th game. Perhaps Mabbutt could have sensed which way Shearer would run, and strike; after all, his right foot is

the renowned finishing tool. In addition, Walker, England's No 3 goalkeeper, did not look alert when the ball came, like a missile, his way. Is this, perhaps, one reason why Shearer is so irrepressible on home soil, and less so when the opponents are foreign? There can be three avenues of investigation:

(a) That Shearer does not carry the same conviction into the England shirt.

(b) That he is not served as well as he readily admits he is at the heart of the Blackburn machine.

(c) That overseas footballers are cleverer, read the game, anticipate, and intercept.

One can use the analogy of motor racing. Blackburn Rovers could be like the racing car, set up specifically for his build, his movement, his intent — rather like the Formula One car prepared for Michael Schumacher. Mike Newell, for example, is the primer, the provider, the selfless runner who sets up to much for Shearer.

That is not to say that anyone else could emulate his consistency. Look at the man, and you see a willingness to trade English blow for blow. Listen to him and you hear the same repetitive explanation: that he could never score his goals were it not for the good and the great players around him. Dare one ask if the providers of Blackburn are, by this definition, more accom-

plished, more attuned to Shearer, than those of the England national team?

If you wish to irritate him, then do so. He will repeat, again and again, that he never has voiced dissatisfaction with his role, often as the lone out-and-out striker, in Terry Venables's line-up. "Of course I wish I'd scored more times for England," he said, "but you don't always get exactly what you want in this game."

That does not, however, answer the conundrum. There is not a hint of suggestion that Shearer ever gives less than his best for anyone. Indeed, if ever a man's physical effort, his straining to do well for the team, could transfer itself to the eyes of the onlooker, then one would never question Shearer's input.

My own suspicion is that his wonderful straightforward approach, built on strength and unerring expectation of scoring, lacks the guile for international football. There he faces not one, but two opponents — a marksman attempting to stick closer than a brother to his hide, and a sweeper, a spare defender ever

lurking and watchful, ready once Shearer turns away from his marker as he did from Mabbutt on Saturday.

Yet England have failed, for those ten matches and more, to "test" Shearer, to see if someone swifter, more cunning, almost as prolific, might better suit international requirements. I think of Ferdinand, without claiming that he could ever outscore Shearer, the best of his breed in England, but just might get internationality.

Down the years, nobody has transferred from league football to the international scene more readily for England than Jimmy Greaves, who scored 375 times in 514 league games, and 44 goals in 57 internationals for his country. Gerd Müller, the German who struck 62 goals for Bayern Munich and 68 goals in 62 internationals, once told me that there is no difference between club and national team duty.

"I have this instinct for knowing when a defence is going to relax, or when a defender will make a mistake," Müller said. "Something inside me says, 'Gerd, go this way, Gerd, go that.' I don't know what it is."

No living Englishman knows, either, why Shearer can appear to apply the same philosophy playing for his club yet lose the instinct for England. If it is not the opposition, nor the way that the formation is set up around him, then we shall go to Euro 96 collectively scratching our heads about the goalscorer who is both the best and the most barren in our colours.

HITS AND MISSES FOR CLUB AND COUNTRY

(Shearer scored 22 goals in 118 games for Southampton in the old first division)

PLAYER	GOALS	GAMES	RATIO
ALAN SHEARER*	100	124	0.806
For Blackburn	5	21	0.238
For England			
BOBBY CHARLTON	207	644	0.321
For club	49	106	0.462
For England			
DAVID LINEKER	192	340	0.565
For club	48	80	0.600
For England			
JIMMY GREAVES	207	514	0.772
For club	46	67	
For England			

Thunderer
rises to
national
challenge

THE TIMES has won the top tipsters' award for 1995. As Thunderer, The Times racing team scooped the *Racing Post* National Press Challenge, finishing nearly £70 ahead of their nearest rival, Tempelgate, of *The Sun*.

The award completes a memorable double for The Times. In December, Richard Evans, racing correspondent, was voted racing journalist of the year.

The challenge, which runs for a calendar year, is open to the national daily newspapers plus the *Racing Post* and *The Sporting Life*.

Competitors begin with a bank of £1,000, from which £1 is staked on selections at all the main meetings. Thunderer ended the year with the largest bank — £762.50.

The Times team showed consistency by lifting the monthly prize three times and, with 1,963 successes, selected the second highest number of winners. They included a host of long-priced winners such as Time Clash (25-1) and Wren Warbler (20-1).

Dick Hinder, the racing editor, said: "It was an achievement beating the specialist tipsters at their own game, and the members of the racing desk — George Rae, Rob Wright, James Willoughby and Vince Wright — all played their part. It was a team effort and we were rewarded for our consistency."

Final table, page 28

OVERWORKED, UNDERFED...



...and fit to drop!

In North Africa and the Middle East, animals are made to carry breathtakingly heavy loads for miles in the blistering heat. Thirsty, overworked and underfed, their legs teeter on the brink of collapse.

Last Friday on BBC1, John Craven's *Animal Sanctuary* showed how SPANA is helping to relieve their suffering through our animal refuges and mobile clinics, and by teaching owners the right way to care for their animals. Please send a gift today. Just £15 keeps a donkey fed and rested for a week.

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It may be live, but is it worth taking time out?

Normally, this column is unstraining in its commitment to sport being shown *live* on television. Overseas cricket tours, Formula One grands prix, international golf and many, many other events are now shown live on terrestrial and satellite television as a matter of course — regardless of the hour of the day. If catching it live means setting the alarm clock for the wee small hours, then so be it.

Every rule, though, has its exception, then certainly its sticking point; for me, the very stickiest point is American football. At its simplest, the question is this — are any of our lives long enough to regularly dedicate the best part of 3½ hours to watching a huge number of huge men battering the shoulder pads out of each other?

I realise that, so soon after our national cricket team has spent a full five days achieving a draw with South Africa (leaving the series, after four games, thrillingly poised at 0-0), it is perhaps not the best time for Little Englanders to start throwing stones at other people's glasshouses, but what the heck? If tennis has started to worry about the time its top players spend not playing tennis, then it seems legitimate for this column to worry about the amount of time that we viewers spend not watching American football.

This new year holiday, for instance, traditionally one of the busiest and exciting times for the game, it could have been an awful lot. Sky showed two live games over the weekend, kicking off with the Rose Bowl, the top college game. All in all, that is more than ten hours of television for three hours of actual play.

The committed enthusiast, of course, will have loved every live minute of it — and got through several crates of

MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY



since play-off match between Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins followed by the National Football Conference game yesterday between Atlanta Falcons and Green Bay Packers, while tonight, NBC Superchannel is showing the Rose Bowl, the top college game. All in all, that is more than ten hours of television for three hours of actual play.

The fact that Channel 4, still probably American football's most visible promoter in this country, has to work in the ratings-ruled world of terrestrial television is reflected in its beer in the much-interrupted process.

coverage. After experimenting with live Sunday night games, the channel has returned to showing recorded highlights on Monday night, although this was shifted to last night for new year.

The channel argues that the normal day's delay allows the Atlanta-based team of Trans World International (producer of both *The American Football Big Match* and the stubbornly backward-looking *Blitz* for the channel) to pick the best of the weekend's games and fit it into a more manageable 90 minutes.

For those truly committed to the "live is best" principle, the alternative is to try to second-guess the best of the weekend's fixtures, often several weeks in advance. Get it right and you are treated on all sides, get it wrong and you are committed

to 3½ hours of turn-off television. As it turned out on Saturday night, there was no right choice for Sky. Of the two games available, both turned out to be unexciting runaways — but that is the danger with live television.

For the first time this year, both Channel 4 and Sky will be showing live the conference championship matches and the Super Bowl on January 28. Given that both channels sensibly take their commentary from the host broadcaster (it is ABC's turn this year), the choice will depend on your preference of British anchor-man — the smooth Gary O'Reilly on Sky and the urbane Gary Imbach, now nearing veteran status on Channel 4.

However, with 3½ hours to get through, there is no real rush, is there?

SPORT IN BRIEF

Lane recovers to set up final with Frost

BARRY LANE, the Europe Ryder Cup player from Berkshire, reached the final of the inaugural Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf at Scottsdale, Arizona, when he came from behind to beat Masahiro Kuramoto, of Japan, by two holes (Mel Webb writes).

Lane, who numbered Severiano Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer among his victims in the European section of the tournament, was two holes down at one stage, but played the more composed golf on the inward nine to put him into the 36-hole final against David Frost, of South Africa, with the winner taking home £660,000 and the runner-up £330,000. Frost, the only seeded player to reach the final stages, holed a six-foot birdie putt at the 17th to defeat Mark McCumber, and I in the other semi-final.

Cup hosts shocked

FOOTBALL: South African football officials have expressed shock and disappointment at Nigeria's withdrawal from the African nations' cup. The reigning champions have pulled out of the tournament this month after the players had received death threats. Solomon Morewa, the South African Football Association president, said that the Nigerians had been assured that they would be safe to compete. Clive Barker, the South Africa coach, said: "As a coach and a player, I am very, very disappointed." Nelson Mandela, the South Africa president, wants an international boycott of Nigeria after the executions, in November, of nine minority rights activists by the military government.

Laitinen injured

SKI JUMPING: Mika Laitinen, of Finland, was badly injured in a fall in practice in Garmisch-Partenkirchen yesterday. Laitinen, who leads the World Cup standings after winning five of nine events so far this season, was taken to hospital after breaking his left collarbone and five ribs on his first practice jump for the New Year's Day competition. Laitinen, 22, will remain in hospital for several days for observation and is expected to be out of competition for at least two months.

Successful return



TENNIS: Marc Rosset, right, marked his return to the game after an operation by securing victory for Switzerland on the opening day of the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament in Perth. Rosset beat Mark Philippoussis 6-3, 6-3 in the second singles as Switzerland comfortably overcame Australia 2-1 in their group B round-robin match. Martina Hingis also won her match, against Nicole Bradlike, 6-7, 6-3, 6-3. The Australians scored a consolation doubles victory.

Steelers feel the cold

ICE HOCKEY: The match between Sheffield Steelers and Basingstoke Bison on Saturday evening was postponed because of icy conditions, which prevented a bus company from taking the Hampshire team to Yorkshire. The Steelers were thus deprived of an opportunity to join Cardiff Devils at the head of the premier division. Nottingham Panthers took an early 4-0 lead against Slough Jets and then survived late pressure to hold on for a 10-8 win to remain in third place.

Weather suits Midlands

HOCKEY: Bad weather brought a disappointing end to the divisional tournament at Bristol, where play was abandoned on the third and final day on Saturday. The issue was still in doubt with one match to be played between Midlands and South West in both the under-17 and under-15 age-groups. On the basis of the results and performances of the first two days, however, Midlands were declared the winners and South West were deemed the runners-up in both categories.

England ring changes

BOWLS: Only three members of the England team that won two bronze medals in the 1992 world championships at Ayr — Norma Shaw, Mary Price and Jean Baker — have been retained for the women's world championship in Royal Leamington Spa from August 3 to 18. Edna Bessell and Barbara Till have been left out this time, while Shaw has surprisingly been relieved of her singles berth.

TELEGRAPH: W. L. Thompson, Paris, G. Rappold (Bromborough), N. Shaw (Bromborough), L. Line, J. Baker (Darbyshire), M. Price (Buckinghamshire), F. Shaw, Baker, Fitzgerald Price

Hall takes clear lead

BADMINTON: A comfortable 15-7, 15-1 victory over Colin Houghton in Portsmouth gave Darren Hall a commanding lead in the Friends Provident grand slam rankings after three tournaments. Joanne Muggeridge cruised to a convincing 11-4, 11-3 victory in the women's event over Tracey Hallam, who was playing in the first of three finals on the same day. She and Lee Bookey lost in the mixed doubles to Julian Robertson and Lorraine Cole, but, with Tracey Middleton, she won the women's doubles.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth cm L U	Conditions Piste Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
ANDORRA Soldeu	20 80	good powder	fair	cloud -5	31/12 (Excellent skiing after 15cm of fresh powder)
AUSTRIA Kitzbühel	20 75	good	heavy	cloud 1	27/12 (Generally good but odd warm patch on busy pistes)
Mayrhofen	5 40	(Generally good but odd warm patch on busy pistes)	cloud	-2	26/12 (Hard-packed snow on most pistes; fresh snow forecast)
St Anton	25	180	good powder	fair	31/12 (Excellent snow conditions but poor visibility)
FRANCE Aïpe d'Huez	80 210	good	heavy	good	31/12 (Excellent pistes slush with new snow; avalanche risk)
Les Arcs	35 180	good powder	good	snow 0	31/12 (Generally excellent but odd rocky patch low down)
Avoriaz	45 85	good	varied	warm	-2 31/12 (Heavy conditions on lower runs; good higher up)
Tignes	90 135	good	varied	good	-1 31/12 (All runs and links finally open; excellent skiing)
ITALY Cervinia	30 250	good powder	good	cloud -3	31/12 (All pistes continue to give excellent skiing)
SWITZERLAND C. Montana	20 100	good powder	closed	snow -1	31/12 (Good skiing on off-piste; snowing for most of day)
Mürren	35 130	good powder	good	snow 0	31/12 (Poor visibility at altitude but good powder)
Verbier	70 110	good powder	warm	snow	-1 31/12 (Excellent moguls developing on Mont Fort; no queues)
Zermatt	10 80	good	crusty	warm	4 27/12 (Higher runs still good; lower warm and icy)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L = lower slopes; U = upper; a = artificial

Born-again Wigan aim for seventh title success

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WEATHER and results permitting, Wigan can kick-start another potential *annus mirabilis* today by taking their consecutive haul of Stones Championship titles to seven. It will be the last before an about-turn in the rugby league calendar, which sees the season switching to the spring and summer months.

What has been a formality almost since September — at no point have Wigan, who are at present four points clear of Leeds, been led — will be completed, provided that the game's perennial champions win their match at Warrington, starting at noon, and St Helens terminate the mathematical interest of Leeds three hours later.

With Widnes and Knowsley Road emerging from deep freeze — both grounds are subject to early-morning inspections — victories for Warrington and Leeds would only put off the inevitable.

For Wigan, 1996 will be an

unprecedented year.

TOP OF TABLE

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
1	Wigan	16	12	0	2	667	242	28
2	Leeds	17	12	0	5	484	331	24
3	St Helens	16	10	0	6	592	424	20
4	Halton	15	9	0	6	352	369	18

REMAINING FIXTURES: Wigan: Today, 3pm, at Warrington; Saturday, 2pm, at Bradford; (a) January 21, Leeds: (a) at Bradford; (b) January 21, Wigan: (a) at St Helens; (b) January 21, Wigan: (a) at Bradford; (c) January 21, Wigan: (a) at St Helens; (d) January 21, Wigan: (a) at Bradford.

altogether more demanding year. Will the Challenge Cup, Wigan's since 1988, be a distractingly prelude to the start of the Super League at the end of March? Being the best in Great Britain is one thing; champions of the world Super League is quite another.

The Wigan team that beat Brisbane Broncos in the last world club challenge, in 1994, was no less dominant domestically, but, rather than any vast improvement on their part, dramatic reversals in the fortunes of several past contenders for the Stones' Championship have ensured that Wigan remain on their pedestal.

However, they no longer have the services of exception players such as Denis Betts, Phil Clark and Frano Botica, leaving the lightest squad at Central Park for years. Shem Tatupu, the former Western Samoa rugby union player, represented the only significant signing in 1995, which has left Shaun Edwards, the Wigan captain, at odds with

the farmland because it is ruled.

Commercially, the Wigan team is the best in Great Britain.

For all that, Wigan's

Foster finds a home for cross country

David Powell looks at the unique form of an athletics boom in the North East



Radcliffe, with Liz Talbot tracking her, leads the women's field confidently at Durham

racing has been cancelled; but, over all these years, we have never been embraced by the federation.

"We have always been treated poorly, shabbily. Nova are the biggest sponsors of British athletics and, if I was to treat my biggest sponsors the way the British federation treats us, I would not have any left."

Commercially, Northumbria and Durham councils, which support the events, are on a winner.

The television exposure has contributed towards a 40 per cent rise in tourism and, when the world championships were staged in Durham last year, about £500,000 was spent

locally over the two days.

"Of course it is commercial, there are no philanthropists," John Caine, Nova's events manager, said. "If this event did not make a profit, we would cancel it." Yet, like Foster, a former 3,000 metres world record-holder, Caine was an international athlete with empathy for the runners of today.

On Saturday, the snow has caused Caine to rethink his course. "I had to chop out a lot

of the farmland because it is ruled," Caine said. "The welfare of the athletes is more important than the event. I do not want Paula's Olympic year ruined because she wrecked her ankle on a farmer's field in Durham."

Commercially, the Wigan team is the best in Great Britain.

For all that, Wigan's

photograph appears on a wall at Gateshead stadium, next to one of Jonathan Edwards, Gateshead's first world champion. Caine, Gateshead's first international.

"Neither Durham nor Northumbria have any grand stadiums, so they cannot aspire to staging international track meetings, but they can aspire to road racing and cross-country events," Caine said.

Foster's contribution, according to Caine, has been to "change people's attitudes" into believing that "big things can come to the North East".

Like Keegan, Foster says that there is no substitute for performing. "On a few occasions, I was the best runner in the world and that is the best seat in the house," he said.

The second-best seat is to be the coach of the athlete who achieves that and the third-best seat is to be next to David Coleman, talking about the people who are doing it. The fourth-best seat is to be organising the events." It was cold again on Saturday, but, once again, Foster was keeping his two seats warm.

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REPORT IN BRIEF

recovers to set
ral with Frost

Home captain's fear of defeat threatens to cast Test series into oblivion

Cronje lacks courage to end stalemate

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (final day
of five): South Africa drew with
England

AFTER the years of longing and the months of anticipation, the first England Test series in South Africa for three decades will be remembered as damp and dreary unless there is a fundamental change of attitude when the final match begins in Cape Town tomorrow.

Blame was being scattered widely and irrationally here yesterday, after a stupefying conclusion to the fourth Test at St George's Park. The truth is simple, if unpalatable. The game was consigned to oblivion because neither side dared to lose, and if that approach prevails at Newlands this week, then a 0-0 draw, only the fifth in a full series of Tests, will not easily be avoided.

South Africa has suddenly taken against Michael Atherton, firstly through inflated indignation over his reaction to being given out on the third day of the game and now because he is popularly being held responsible for the negative outcome. In the nation's top Sunday newspaper, a large photograph of Atherton gawking appeared beneath the front-page headline 'Spoilsport'; it was not meant to be flattering, but neither was it fair.

Whatever criticisms may apply to Atherton for his influence on the tedium of Saturday, more must be directed towards Hansie Cronje, his South Africa counterpart, whose disinclination to employ his most attacking bowlers and to set appropriate fields betrayed a revealing lack of faith in the ability of his team to bowl out England.

England had been chasing the game from the moment that they lost the toss, and although a flurry of wickets on Friday afternoon offered them an unexpected sight of victory, it was so fleeting as to be illusory. On a pitch prohibiting aggression, and with a slow outfield, the odds against them scoring 308 runs on the final day were enormous, yet Cronje appeared to think differently.

This was the second time in the series that the South Africa bowlers failed to finish the job when circumstances favoured them; here, they did not even come close. Yesterday, Cronje ought to have been asking himself whether he gave out the right signals of intent or whether, as the England players privately believed, he transmuted only an instinct for self-preservation, a paranoia about losing.

South Africa have lost none of their past nine Tests under Cronje, a record of which he can be justly proud. Against England, however, it has been necessary sometimes to venture a risk or two in the quest for victory, and Cronje has been unwilling to do it. On Friday morning, he was personally assured by Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, that nothing would be held against him if he lost the match in the effort of trying to win it. Evidently, it was a wasted message.

In fairness, this was a difficult pitch to win on and it was only because England batted so poorly in their first innings, and South Africa so carelessly in their second, that anything other than a draw entered the equation. Those with long memories say that Port Elizabeth has always produced such slow surfaces, in which case the fact that this



Stewart fails to connect with a rare aggressive shot against the bowing of Donald during his match-saving innings in Port Elizabeth

was only the second draw in 14 Tests at the ground is a bewildering statistic.

The crowd, more than 60,000 over the five days, sat patiently through it all, sustained as much by the marvellous brass band as by the cricket. Tolerance will wear thin in Cape Town, where more than 103,000 tickets have been sold and capacity houses are virtually guaranteed.

The Newlands groundsman is Andy Atkinson, whose final Test pitch at Edgbaston,

where he worked until 1993, helped to give Atherton's tenure as captain a bleak start.

The usual pitch guesswork is further complicated because a laid-back strip is being used and only after careful study of it will the England management decide if it can take the attacking option and play an additional bowler, promoting Robin Smith to No 3.

At least one change has been forced upon England by the thigh injury to Mark Illott, and Angus Fraser will proba-

bly have a chance to revive his career once more. He has reacted admirably since being dropped for the third Test, working extensively on his physical fitness as well as bowling for hour after hour in the nets. "I feel I could run in and bowl in a blindfold at the moment," he said.

Alec Stewart has occasionally looked as if he was batting blindfold during this series and his position as Atherton's opening partner was under increased threat after his

thoughtless first-innings dismissal, by batting through all but the dregs of Saturday for 81 — his first half-century as an opener in 18 Test innings — he not only ensured that this game was safe but also guaranteed that he would be playing in the next one.

Stewart needed his luck, especially against Allan Donald, whose figures are a mockery of the constant threat that he presented. In mid-afternoon, when he defeated Adams comprehensively, only to

see the ball take a thin inside edge and whistling past leg stump for four, Donald sank slowly and symbolically to his knees. Two hours later, with the game long since comatose, he finally got his man.

Bafflingly, Cronje kept Paul Adams waiting for his first bowl until 15 minutes before lunch, and it was not entirely explained by his preference for a softer ball. By then, the opening hour, in which England scored an encouraging 43, had given way to a pedestrian pace and, early though it was, one sensed that both teams had already settled on the outcome.

Adams, nevertheless, operated for most of the remaining play and, for one of such novice status, was deeply impressive. He made greater use of the chinaman than in the first innings and, though it is telegraphed by a change of action and is invariably bowled flatter and quicker than the googly, it caused problems and took a wicket. Jason Gallian's vigilant 28 ending with a misjudgment.

The 222 minutes spent at the crease by Atherton, for 34 runs, increased his batting time for the series beyond 25 hours.

The South African media appears to think that he has outstayed his welcome, but Atherton has aggregated 390 runs and Cronje a mere 101. In all senses, the latter is the captain carrying the greater burden into the final Test.

Bold strokes in short supply especially from the captains

JOHN WOODCOCK
At the Test

It was a pity that the fourth Test between South Africa and England had to finish in anticlimax in Port Elizabeth on Saturday, though it was all too predictable that it would. Neither side was prepared to take any sort of a risk in going for victory, and the groundsmen had produced a pitch that looked at the end as though it would have lasted another five days.

On the way, England's plane was overtaken by South Africa's, visible on the starboard side, and the captain of England's flight conveyed the following message from the South African cricketers: "So, you fly as slowly as you bat."

On Christmas Eve, the first day of the Test series, Peter Richardson had batted all day for England and made only 69. On Boxing Day, England crawled along to 268, made in 118.5 eight-ball overs. Yet they won the match because they had the bowlers and the confidence to do so.

Now, they do not on Saturday. South Africa did not either.

Although he was less destructive than had been widely anticipated, seeing Adams bowl was the match's main attraction. He was a breath of fresh air.

South Africa's faster bowling asks some serious questions of the batsmen, but, after a while, it becomes increasingly tedious to watch. Trevor Bailey, as well-versed a purist as there is, and a commentator in Port Elizabeth, contended there that the South Africa attack was as relentless in its efficiency as any that they can ever have fielded. They certainly know how to make themselves very difficult to plumb, but the line and length which they use to do so are often too mean to be really menacing.

In 1956-57, Bailey himself played against a much better-balanced attack and, to my mind, a distinctly stronger one. If Donald and young Shaun Pollock are the equal of Peter Heine and Neil Acock, there was a fitness about Hugh Tayfield and Goddard all those years ago, that would, I think, have won the Test match for South Africa on Saturday. Tayfield was a friendless effective bowler when there was tension in the air.

But that is a diversion. Adams's future as a Test bowler is difficult to predict. He is nothing like as perplexing yet as Shane Warne, mainly because he bowls only googlies and has no comparable powers of spin. He has a flatter, quicker ball that runs on towards the leg stump, but it is not a chinaman. His grip of the ball, between forefinger and thumb, is so extraordinary, and his action so twisted, that one wonders whether he can ever command the chinaman or, for that matter, avoid having trouble with his back.

One can well see that, on a dusty pitch, one that enhances his spin, he could run through a side; but, in Test cricket, he is going to find precious few of those. At Port Elizabeth, on a pitch that held together too well and was short of bounce, his bowling, for all its fascination, lacked variety.

Otherwise, they were neither more or less broody than Atherton and Cronje. It helps, too, of course, to have in one's side batsmen of the calibre of Graeme Pollock and Barry Richards.

Flying down from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town yesterday, I was reminded of the flight that we had into Cape

Warne reaches third Test half-century

SHANE WARNE became the first bowler in the history of Test cricket to take 50 wickets in a calendar year for three years in succession as he and Glenn McGrath quickly wrapped up the Sri Lanka second innings at Melbourne on Saturday.

Australia, needing only 41 runs for victory to take a winning 2-0 lead in the series, knocked off the runs in 7.4 overs to win by ten wickets.

Warne, who did the hat-trick against England on the same ground last winter, had an opportunity to repeat the feat after getting rid of Wickremasinghe and Muralitharan with successive deliveries, only for Jayantia Silva, who was playing his first Test, to foil his fellow spinner.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, who needed a pain-killing injection in an injured hand, was unbroken with 111 when the innings closed. Warne and McGrath each having taken two wickets in the brief passage of play. Sri

Brass band steals a march on the Barmy Army

Simon Wilde finds that local musicians called the tune during the fourth Test

WHAT better way to get away from the miseries of an English winter than to travel abroad to support the England cricket team? It is an increasingly popular pursuit as the mindless antics of the Barmy Army have recently made people aware.

Some 2,000 Englishmen were in Port Elizabeth for the fourth Test match and at least 3,000 are expected for the fifth Test in Cape Town tomorrow. These excursions are not simply about watching sport; they are about sun, sea and serendipity.

Those Englishmen at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Saturday who went along with an open mind got the treat of a lifetime. They forgot their seats in the impressive but soulless Duck Pond Pavilion that their travel companies had reserved and migrated to the unreserved seats in the old grandstand, where a perch on the roughly-hewn terracing cost just nine rand (about £1.80).

These seats are a special place on South African cricket

grounds, where tickets are priced low to attract every section of the country's society. The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) is also rightly anxious that the more exotic aspects of African culture should not be lost to its sports fields, which is why it has asked the local communities at all the grounds on England's tour to bring their musicians with them.

That is what brought the King George's Brass Band, drawn from three local churches, to Port Elizabeth, and blacks, Coloureds and whites flocked to join the carnival. From somewhere near the shadowy centre of the seething mass of humanity that crammed itself into the old grandstand, this band created an atmosphere special even by the standards of this and other recent tours to South Africa.

Even before the lunch interval, it was pretty clear that the match was going to end in a draw, but it mattered not; everyone was having too good a time to care. Just occasional-

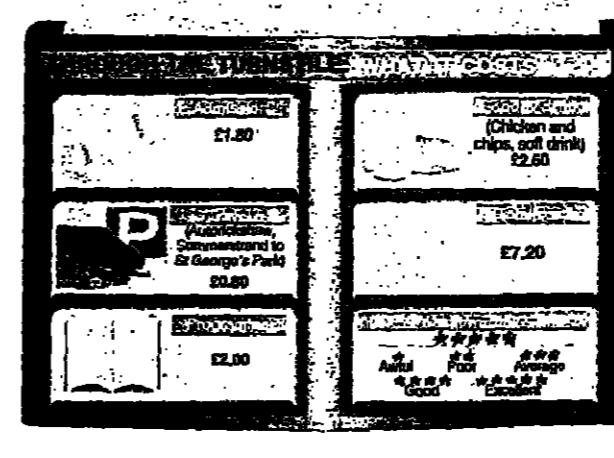
No only did the newly enfranchised peoples of South Africa bring themselves to these terraces, they also brought their lives. Even as they swayed to the music, couples embraced and mothers fed their children. One of the most remarkable sights was the eagerness of non-

affiliates of the cricketers. Many are no more than boys, with the youngest, a horn player, just ten years old. Although the previous day, Ali Bacher, the managing director of the UCBSA, had presented them with 5,000 rand, the band is not paid to appear. They have asked to accompany the South Africa team to the World Cup in Pakistan next month and the board would like them to go, if the necessary sponsorship can be found.

Throughout all this, the Barmy Army, not being instrumentalists, stood in front of the Castle bar on the opposite side of the ground, drinking their beer in stolid silence. Rarely had they had their thunder so comprehensively stolen.

Lunch was an interruption, though weeping nonetheless. Spicy chicken cooked at Nando's braai and eaten under the palm trees of St George's Park provided another flavour of South Africa and came courtesy of a favourable exchange rate for the British traveller, cheap at the price.

Back in the stand, the party was still going strong, with the 20 members of the band showing few signs of the fifth-day fatigue that was obviously



ENGLAND: First Innings	
M A Atherton	287min, 176 balls, 8 fours
c Richardson b Adams	72 (102min, 227 balls, 3 fours)
G Kristen c Thorpe b Bell	51 (100min, 189 balls, 9 fours)
w J Caddick c Richardson b Adams	4 (29min, 27 balls, 1 four)
D J Caddick c Russell b Cork	91 (244min, 193 balls, 14 fours)
J N Rhodes c Smith b Cork	49 (159min, 119 balls, 1 six, 5 fours)
G A Thorpe c Smith b Cork	62 (90min, 158 balls, 8 fours)
R A Smith b McMillan	2 (8min, 6 balls)
c Russell b Bannerman	49 (117min, 118 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)
T J Richardson	30 (110min, 108 balls, 1 four)
c Thorpe b Bannerman	94 (100min, 188 balls, 11 fours)
S M Pollock lbw b Cork	23 (78min, 84 balls, 3 fours)
C M Pollock	0 (78min, 6 balls)
c Russell b Bannerman	15 (73min, 118 balls, 1 four)
A A Donald not out	12 (110min, 108 balls, 1 four)
P R Adams not out	0 (8min, 3 balls)
Total (110.5 overs, 660min)	268 (48.5 overs, 280min)
Fall of WICKETS: 1-57, 2-85, 3-98, 4-207, 5-211, 6-326, 7-379, 8-406, 9-426.	1-57, 2-85, 3-98, 4-207, 5-211, 6-326, 7-379, 8-406, 9-426.
BOWLING: Cork 120.4 overs, 229min	120.4 overs, 229min
G Pollock 120.4 overs, 229min	120.4 overs, 229min
J N Rhodes 120.4 overs, 229min	120.4 overs, 229min
R A Smith 120.4 overs, 229min	120.4 overs, 229min
G A Thorpe 120.4 overs, 229min	120.4 overs, 229min
S M Pollock 120.4 overs, 229min	120.4 overs, 229min
T J Richardson 120.4 overs, 229min	120.4 overs, 229min
c Richardson b Adams	72 (29min, 22 balls, 2 fours)
w J Cronje c Russell b Martin	6 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
A J Stewart c Richardson b Pollock	4 (29min, 16 balls, 1 four)
J F Thorpe c Caddick b Pollock	14 (60min, 57 balls, 1 four)
J N Rhodes b Caddick	1 (3min, 8 balls)
G A Thorpe c Smith b Cork	27 (29min, 34 balls, 3 fours)
R A Smith b McMillan	0 (29min, 15 balls, 1 four)
c Russell b Bannerman	49 (29min, 118 balls, 9 fours)
M A Atherton	5 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
c Richardson b Adams	30 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
G Pollock c Richardson b Adams	1 (3min, 3 balls)
R A Smith c Caddick b Pollock	23 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
J N Rhodes c Smith b Cork	23 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
G A Thorpe c Smith b Cork	23 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
R A Smith b McMillan	2 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
c Richardson b Adams	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
w J Cronje c Russell b Martin	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
A J Stewart c Richardson b Pollock	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
J F Thorpe c Caddick b Pollock	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
G A Thorpe c Smith b Cork	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
R A Smith b McMillan	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
c Richardson b Adams	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
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A J Stewart c Richardson b Pollock	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
J F Thorpe c Caddick b Pollock	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
G A Thorpe c Smith b Cork	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
R A Smith b McMillan	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
c Richardson b Adams	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
w J Cronje c Russell b Martin	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
A J Stewart c Richardson b Pollock	1 (29min, 18 balls, 1 four)
J F Thorpe c Caddick b Pollock	1 (2

Sectarian rift remains to haunt Glasgow 25 years after disaster united a city in grief

Legacy of Ibrox lost amid intolerance of divided loyalties

Tomorrow is the 25th anniversary of the Ibrox disaster, when 66 people died at the ground, on stairway 13, at the close of an Old Firm game. A fatal accident inquiry concluded that the 1971 tragedy had been caused by overcrowding on those steps, with perhaps a slip by a single person leading those behind to tumble onto one another, creating a cumulative force that was to wrench the metal railings out of shape.

The disproportionately heavy use of that stairway at the traditional "Rangers End" of the ground has been plausibly explained by the fact that it led direct to Cairaulea Drive and the underground station. It deepens the anguish to reflect that a humdrum impulse to escape a January day and hurry to the warmth of pub or home could bring so much death, as well as devastation, to the families of the victims.

The disaster, for a while at least, swept away all the bravado of football. Nobody could think of crowds and their loyalties to more teams when funeral after funeral was demonstrating that supporters are simply men whose ordinary, vulnerable lives find their worth among wives, children and friends.

In the shock and grief, there was a sense of common humanity that made prestige and position irrelevant. An ambulance officer at Ibrox that day remembers that the other stretcher-bearer he worked with was Jock Stein, the Celtic manager. In the subsequent weeks, Willie Waddell, Stein's counterpart at Rangers, made extraordinary efforts to cope with the aftermath.

Those then at Ibrox believe that he barely slept at all, spending each day speaking to the families of the deceased and organising groups of players to attend funerals or visit

those who had escaped stairway 13 with mere injuries. In addition to sharing in the sorrow of its supporters, the club was also to make a far-sighted response to the disaster.

The official inquiry included some scathing criticism of Rangers, but Ibrox has been beyond reproach ever since. By 1981, a new ground had, in effect, been built.

And anyone inclined to make facile remarks about the closing of stable doors should remember that Rang-

ers action. The call went unanswered. Instead of occasional bouts of hand-wringing, there ought to have been a concerted campaign, perhaps spearheaded by the most-admired players, to confront deplorable behaviour whenever it occurred.

As it was, the clubs would not even abandon their practices. Celtic insisted on flying the Irish flag and, more alarmingly, George Brown, a Rangers director, stated in 1972 that he did not think Rangers would ever sign a Catholic. Seventeen years were to pass before, to the credit of the present board, the club bought Maurice Johnston.

There is much to admire in the use that the Old Firm have made of their material resources. Rangers' wealth has built an opulent team that, on Saturday, bewildered Hibernian in a 7-0 victory. Even a few years ago, few would have envisaged that they would one day see Paul Gascoigne or Brian Laudrup to the credit of Scottish football.

In deeper senses, however, there have been too few developments. Men were chastened by the Ibrox disaster, but the opportunities of those days were squandered and the old animosities have long been re-established. The cost to the city continues to be catastrophic, although the occasional murder brings only a flurry of reporting followed by indifference.

Early this season, a young Celtic supporter was attacked and killed after a game as he passed through an area of the city where aggression might have been expected. Local people placed flowers on the pavement and tied Celtic and Rangers scarves together. Soon, others had separated the colours and tossed the flowers in the bin. Tolerance is one memorial that Glasgow has failed to give the dead of 1971.

ers followers were sitting in safety and comfort long before the tragedians of Bradford, Heyes and Hillsborough.

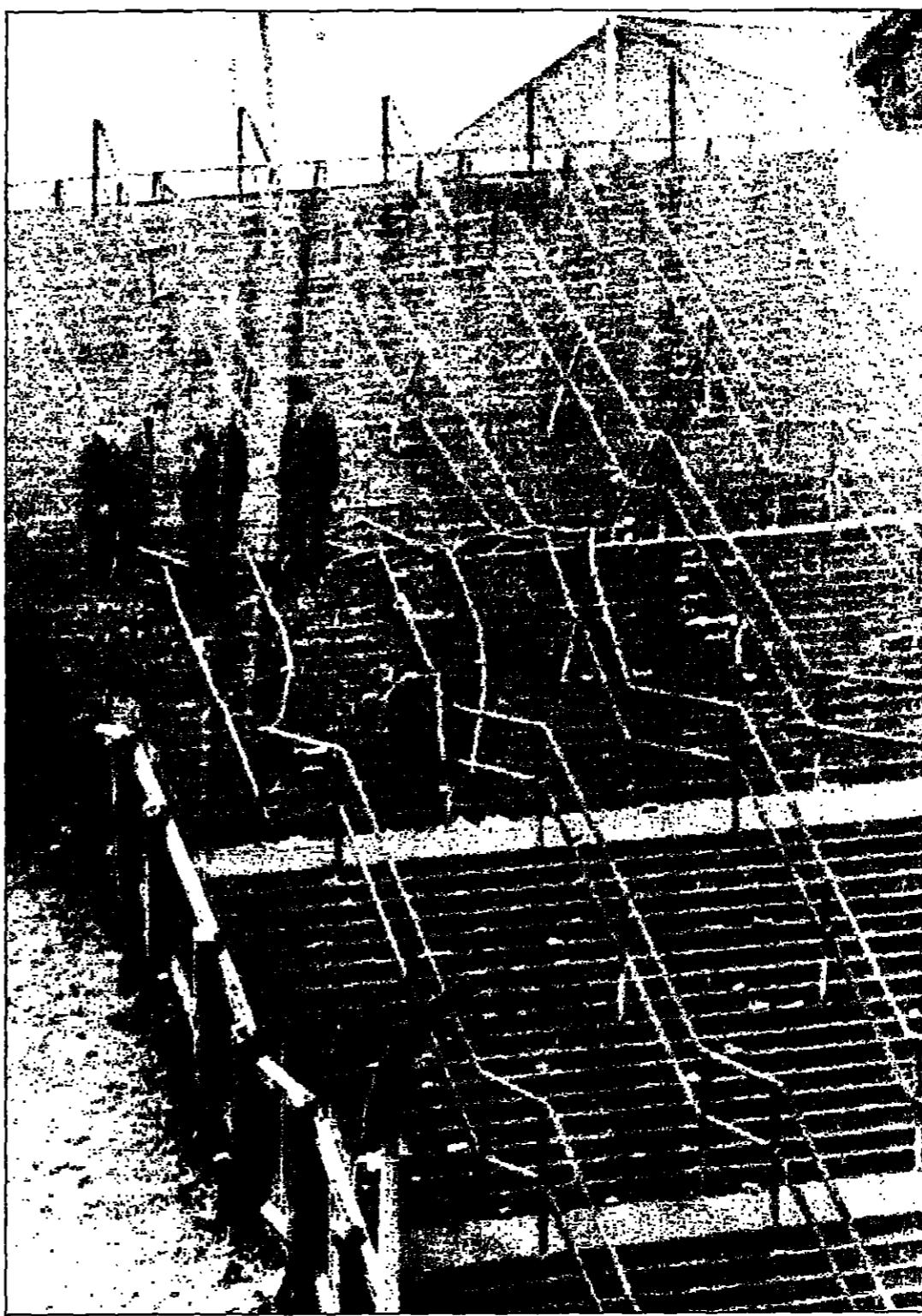
Extraordinary sums were lavished on Ibrox, but in other ways the reaction to the carnage of that January afternoon in 1971 was wholly inadequate. In the trauma of the time, there was an opportunity for Glasgow to shed a great deal of its sectarian bitterness. Old Firm supporters were, for a spell, genuinely ashamed of the religious divisions that led them to detest one another.

In the face of so much death, few could cling to the hatred. So long as that mood prevailed, it might have been harnessed by Celtic and Rangers. In 1972, the Glasgow magistrates asked both clubs to take

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary



The day after the disaster, the twisted barriers of Ibrox stand as a stark reminder of the carnage

Display of seasonal spirit bodes well for Dagenham

Dagenham and Red ... 2
Bromsgrove Rovers ... 2

By WALTER GAMMIE

THE frozen conditions were hardly ideal, but the occasional crash landing, and the more frequent sight of players left stranded when unable to turn, only added to the entertainment for the 1,020 shivering diehards drawn to Victoria Road for the lone match to survive in the Vauxhall Conference on Saturday.

Home supporters in the club's best crowd of the season were warmed by the spirit with which their side came back to gain a valuable point. The chopping and changing by Graham Carr, their manager of three months, may finally be producing a force capable of climbing out of the relegation places.

The 30 or so hardy Bromsgrove followers were denied the reward of a victory when Robbie Taylor, the only player wearing white trainers and blue mittens, bundled in a rebound off the chest of Chris Taylor, the Bromsgrove keeper, after 80 minutes.

Dagenham had struck first, in the 34th minute, when Worthington followed up to hook home after his penalty had been blocked by Chris Taylor.

Dagenham's main attacking thrust came from Wilson and Broom, with their sharp running from midfield; the most persistent threat from Bromsgrove came from Carter, who turned in a corner by Skelding after 38 minutes to bring Bromsgrove level.

In the 73rd minute, his shot was too hot for Williams, but the ball was prevented from crossing the line by the late arrival of Reed, who grabbed a goalpost to keep himself upright before scrambling the ball to safety — ice rinkmanship of the highest order. The reprieve was short-lived, however, as Skelding's corner found the head of the unmarked Clarke beyond the far post.

"Don't let it slip away," Richardson, the Bromsgrove captain, exhorted his team, but they were undone by the urgency of Dagenham's riposte.

Taylor's goal might easily have been followed by another penalty, as Worthington sprawled under Randall's challenge. The final flourish was supplied by Carter, who chipped Williams perfectly, only for the ball to rebound off the bar.

DAGENHAM AND REDBRIDGE (4-4-2) D Williams — G Reed, D Crookes, S Connor, G Stebbing — K Dyer, L Wilson, R Taylor, J Broom — G Worthington, I Stranglow. BROMSGROVE ROVERS (3-5-2) C Taylor — G Carter, P Taylor, R Reed, R Clarke — J Skelding, A Smith, D Groot, M Clegg, J Randall — R Carter, J Hunt.

Referee: N Perkins.

United prepare to step up the pressure on Newcastle

By MEL WEBB

A WEEK ago, a long time in football? How about five days? Last Wednesday evening, Newcastle United were 90 minutes away from taking a 13-point lead in the FA Carling Premiership and, if they did, it was suggested by those who know about these things that the championship was all but theirs. By tonight, that advantage could be whittled down to one point. The nation's exponents of footballing punditry have gone strangely quiet.

Manchester United were the instruments of Newcastle's torture when they won 2-0 at Old Trafford. If Alex Ferguson's side beat Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane tonight, they will be covering Newcastle's footprints with their own. Quite suddenly, the game is again and Kevin Keegan heads into 1996 with a slightly warier tread.

Even if Manchester United win tonight, the Newcastle manager has the considerable consolation that his team will have two games in hand, one of which they play tomorrow night when Arsenal visit St James' Park. The suspicion is that the teletext will have a few extra customers at around 10 o'clock tonight.

Manchester United go into the match tonight with Ferguson relying again on William Prunier, his second Frenchman, to plug the gap in central defence left by the absence of Bruce, Pallister and May, while Philip Neville and possibly Irwin are also on the injured list. Prunier played solidly in defence and also impressed in attack in United's 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers on Saturday, but will be given a closer examination by Sheringham and Armstrong, Tottenham's in-form forwards. Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, has problems of his own.

Fox, Dozzil, Howells, Wilson and Anderson are all still on the injured list, and those who are left go into the game with the Premiership's last unbeaten away record having been surrendered with their defeat by Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

The game at White Hart Lane is all-ticket, while another sizeable gate is expected at the night's other match, between Middlesbrough and Aston Villa at the Riverside Stadium.

The Football Association denied yesterday that it had suppressed the charge of bringing the game into disrepute that has been levelled at Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager. Robson is said to have been involved, along with Nigel Pearson and Neil Cox, two of his players, in a heated exchange with Paul Danson, the referee at Middlesbrough's game against Blackburn on Saturday.

December 16, and the alleged offence did not come to light until ten days after the match. Pearson and Cox have also been charged.

"There is certainly no question of a cover-up," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said. "If there had been a press inquiry on the day Robson was charged, we would have responded to it, but it is not our policy to announce charges as a kind of blacklist bulletin." The case could prove an embarrassment for the FA, since Robson is a part of the support team of Terry Venables, the England coach.

Venables, himself, is thought to be involved in ever more anxious debate with the international committee of the FA over a new contract. Venables has said that he expects that an agreement, that would take him beyond the World Cup finals in 1998, will be signed inside a week, but this

has angered some members of the international committee, notably Noel White, the Liverpool director, and Ian Stott, the Oldham Athletic chairman.

They are said to be concerned with the number of civil court actions in which Venables is involved. If Venables is appointed before the scheduled date of January 30, the international committee seems sure to call an emergency meeting.

Nigeria's sudden withdrawal on Saturday from the African nations' cup in South Africa, ostensibly for security reasons, has given two Premiership clubs an unexpected bonus. A directive from Fifa, the game's world governing body, had left Everton and Wimbledon expecting to lose Daniel Amokach and Elan Ekoku, respectively, to the competition, which starts later this month.



Venables: contract talks

FIXTURES FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

FOOTBALL	SECOND DIVISION	THIRD DIVISION	CUMBRIAN	RUGBY UNION
Kick-off 3.00 unless stated * denotes all-kids match P denotes postponed	Brighton & Hove Albion (0.0) Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield (2.0) Burnley v Oxford United (2.0) Cardiff v Blackpool (P) Notts County v York (P) Peterborough v Swindon (P) Sheffield Wednesday v Walsall (P) West Ham v Hull (10.00 inspection)	Altrincham v Northwich (0.0) Barnet v Woking (P) Bunting & Peartree v Kidderminster (P) Morecambe v Gateshead (P) Runcorn v Shifnal (P) Southport v Stourbridge (P) Telford v Macclesfield (P) Welling v Doves (P)	Aldershot v Brackley (P) Bircham v Arbroath (P) Bolton v Alvechurch (P) Bunting & Peartree v Kidderminster (P) Cleethorpes & District v Shrewsbury (P) Hartlepool v Wigan (P)	Club matches: Hawick v Heriot's F.P. (2.0) Langholm v Carlisle (2.0)
FA CUP: Coventry v Southampton (2.0) Leeds v Liverpool (2.0) Luton v Nottingham Forest (2.0) Manchester City v West Ham (2.0) Middlesbrough v Aston Villa (6.0) Sheffield Wednesday v Birmingham City (8.0)	Bury v Hartlepools (P) Burnley v Hartlepools (P) Celtic v Coventry (P) Derby v Norwich (P) Grimsby v Huddersfield (P) Ipswich v Port Vale (P) Luton v Sunderland (P)	Brentford v Cheltenham (P) Bury v Hartlepools (P) Celtic v Coventry (P) Derby v Norwich (P) Grimsby v Huddersfield (P) Ipswich v Port Vale (P) Luton v Sunderland (P)	ENGLISH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Tadcaster & Otley v Macclesfield (P) Shrewsbury & Wellington v Alvechurch (P) Skipton & Southam v Highgate (P) Spennymoor & Darlington v Shrewsbury (P)	ENGLISH BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham & Gloucester v Shrewsbury (P) Second division: Cheltenham & Gloucester v Shrewsbury (P)
FA CUP: Bradford v Walsall (2.0) Birmingham v Wolverhampton (2.0) Derby v Norwich (2.0) Grimsby v Huddersfield (2.0) Ipswich v Port Vale (P) Luton v Sunderland (P)	Bury v Hartlepools (P) Burnley v Hartlepools (P) Celtic v Coventry (P) Derby v Norwich (P) Grimsby v Huddersfield (P) Ipswich v Port Vale (P)	Brentford v Cheltenham (P) Bury v Hartlepools (P) Celtic v Coventry (P) Derby v Norwich (P) Grimsby v Huddersfield (P) Ipswich v Port Vale (P)	ENGLISH LEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Dartford (2.0) Second division: Dartford v Chatham (2.0)	ENGLISH LEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Dartford (2.0) Second division: Dartford v Chatham (2.0)
FA CUP: Bury v Hartlepools (2.0) Burnley v Hartlepools (P) Celtic v Coventry (P) Derby v Norwich (P) Grimsby v Huddersfield (P) Ipswich v Port Vale (P)	Bury v Hartlepools (P) Burnley v Hartlepools (P) Celtic v Coventry (P) Derby v Norwich (P) Grimsby v Huddersfield (P) Ipswich v Port Vale (P)	Brentford v Cheltenham (P) Bury v Hartlepools (P) Celtic v Coventry (P) Derby v Norwich (P) Grimsby v Huddersfield (P) Ipswich v Port Vale (P)	STANROFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor v Cliftonville, Crusaders v Portadown, Glenavon v Glentoran, United v Ards (2.0)	STANROFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor v Cliftonville, Crusaders v Portadown, Glenavon v Glentoran, United v Ards (2.0)
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GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
FOOTBALL FA CUP: Birmingham v West Ham (2.0) Burnley v Hartlepools (2.0) Celtic v Coventry (2.0) Derby v Norwich (2.0) Grimsby v Huddersfield (2.0) Ipswich v Port Vale (2.0)	OTHER SPORT BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Motherwell (8.0) Second division: Broomloan v Partick (8.0) Third division: Partick Thistle v Queen of the South (7.00)	OTHER SPORT BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Motherwell (8.0) Second division: Broomloan v Partick (8.0) Third division: Partick Thistle v Queen of the South (7.00)	OTHER SPORT BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Motherwell (8.0) Second division: Broomloan v Partick (8.0) Third division: Partick Thistle v Queen of the South (7.00)	OTHER SPORT BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Motherwell (8.0) Second division: Broomloan v Partick (8.0) Third division: Partick Thistle v Queen of the South (7.00)
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Welshmen win in Dublin to set up Heineken Cup final with Toulouse on Sunday

Cardiff can cash in on European adventure

Leinster 14
Cardiff 23

FROM DAVID HANNS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBLIN

CARDIFF can become the catalyst for change in Welsh rugby, not only by their playing achievement in reaching the final of the inaugural Heineken Cup but also through the ancillary benefits.

Should they beat Toulouse at the Arms Park next Sunday — the final for which the organisers so desperately hoped — it will only confirm their domestic primacy.

As winners of the Heineken League, their domestic club competition, last season, they received £25,000. Now, Gareth Davies, their chief executive, talks of six-figure sums accruing from their venture into Europe and valuable associations established with blue-chip companies as a result of the club's enhanced profile.

"Clubs offering European rugby in their fixture list have extra selling power," Davies said. However, he stresses the need for clarification on club earnings from the competition. This season, the split of television and sponsorship income has yet to be determined; next season, the entry of English and Scottish sides will increase the hands dipping into the pot.

When Davies discusses contracts with his first-team players this week, he will hold a powerful hand, in terms of the finances coming into the club and the quality of games on offer. Before the final next weekend, he will meet the representatives of Toulouse, Toulon and Castres, and a clutch of envious English ad-

ministrators to lay down the requirements of what are fast becoming the most influential clubs in Europe.

The vista opening up, of course, contains an implicit threat to the governing bodies of the respective countries — that their best clubs will become sufficiently independent to go their own way — but, what Cardiff are achieving, others assuredly will seek to emulate.

Moreover, the competition has received instant credibility with a Franco-Welsh final. An all-Welsh final would have been a heavy blow in marketing terms, while a Leinster success would have been a shade peripheral for television audiences in Great Britain.

The Welsh champions reached the final with a display of rugby adapted to suit the miserable conditions at Lansdowne Road on Saturday, where freezing rain drove down the pitch and numbered hands did well to cling to the ball. In such circumstances, the 8,000 or so hardy souls who constituted the crowd were well rewarded with a full-blooded and skilful contest that left Leinster honourable beaten.

"Provincial rugby in Ireland had become a bit stagnant and there was some question as to whether the provinces could compete with clubs like Cardiff," Jim Glavin, the Leinster manager, said. "I think that has now been answered."

Indeed, Leinster's magnificent pack out-scrumming Cardiff, but, importantly, lacked lineout presence. They also lacked the ability to play effectively with the wind in the second half, after trailing by only six points at the interval.

Cardiff scored two textbook tries in the first half and then played cannily into the wind



Rolland, the Leinster scrum half, escapes the attentions of the Cardiff defence at Lansdowne Road

with a mixture of chip kicks and grubbers. They won the lineouts 19-8 and their half backs made sure that possession was not wasted.

Their tries both came from set-piece play and Hall was pivotal to each. The former Wales captain, behind a lineout, left Taylor to draw the defence with a dummy run before sending Emry Lewis cantering into space. Taylor supported for the try, and it was his pick-up at a scrum that gave Hall the second try as Pim grasped at thin air.

Pim gained some recom-

pense when he finished off a series of surging attacks, but the most potent Leinster threat came from Costello and McQuillin, who left yesterday for Atlanta with the Ireland party and may reasonably hope for a first cap against the United States this weekend.

Both men have the ability to cross the advantage line and offer a target for their colleagues, but Leinster could find no foothold in the Cardiff half.

That Cardiff scored the only points of the second half through Moore's close-range

dropped goal was a significant achievement, though they were grateful that McGowan could not judge the wind sufficiently well to land two penalty attempts. It was reward too, for Terry Holmes, the club's new coach.

The former international scrum half is hardly three weeks into his new role since the return of Alex Evans to Australia. Holmes and Cardiff are trying each other out on a month-by-month basis this season, and, if both enjoy the relationship, it will be extended. So far, Holmes could

argue, it has been plain sailing.

SCORERS: Leinster: Try: Pim. Penalty: Hall. Conversions: Davies (2). Penalties: Davies. Dropped goals: Davies, Moore.

LEINSTER: C Clarke (Referees College); P Kevin (Old Belvedere); V Cunningham (St Kevin's); P O'Keeffe (St Kevin's); P O'Keeffe (Rangers); C O'Shea (London Irish); A McGowan (Blackrock College); R Hall; M Ford; M Hall; M Ring; A Davies; C Jones; C Jones; J Humber; L Muston; E Lewis; J Walker; D Jones; O Williams; H Taylor. Referee: B Campese (England).

CARDIFF: M Reyer; S Ford; M Hall; M Ring; A Davies; C Jones; C Jones; J Humber; L Muston; E Lewis; J Walker; D Jones; O Williams; H Taylor. Referee: B Campese (England).

Toulouse 30
Swansea 3

FROM GERALD DAVIES
IN TOULOUSE

THE benefits of the Heineken Cup and the opportunities that the tournament will afford, more so in seasons to come than even in this inaugural year, were evident at the Stade des Sept-Deniers in Toulouse on Saturday. The competition will expose clubs to a higher level of competition; more important, it will also allow them to cross frontiers, not only of geography, but of ideas.

Toulouse, in beating Swansea by three goals and three penalty goals to a penalty goal, demonstrated — in fits and starts — that swiftness of thought and speed of pass to a choice of supporting players remain essential for success against more static opponents. Swansea, more inclined to look for support and control close to the forwards, were frequently out-manoeuvred by a team that gathered pace by shifting the ball quickly away from where bodies were likely to be thickest. Swansea, confronted by opponents who were more powerful, were left back-pedalling for much of the time, although many of their young players will have learnt from the experience.

Mick Ruddock, the Swansea coach, had said beforehand that the back row of the scrum might be the critical area — and so, to an extent, it proved. Manent, Dispagne and Lacroix were always inspiring the movements forward and, once Reynolds left the field with a rib carriage injury, after 28 minutes, they grew more so. When Belot emerged from an irresistible moving maul on the halfway line, Manent was at his shoulder to score the try, in the 54th minute, that effectively secured Toulouse's place in the final against Cardiff on Sunday.

Toulouse committed errors in midfield, but few from the inter-passing of their forwards. They had their replacements, too. Lacroix, Bert and Califano had to leave the field after Manent's try, but it made little difference. Ongier, who left the field late in the game, was a constant threat.

Swansea, nonetheless, enjoyed their most productive period. Boobyer broke through the defence, as did Weatherley. Aled Williams was also held up on the line. It was to no avail; this was too much like desperate catch-up rugby.

Deylaud kicked another penalty goal. Castaigned crossed for a score but was recalled and Artigues, his partner in the centre, ensured that the team ended on a high note with a beautifully carved run. Deylaud converted all the tries.

SCORERS: Toulouse: Tries: Manent, Artigues, penalty try; Conversions: Deylaud (3). Penalty goals: Deylaud (3). Swansea: Penalty goal: Williams.

TOULOUSE: P. Manent, P. Dispagne, E. Lacroix, J. Califano, C. Lacroix, P. Soulé, C. Pontois, H. Manent, F. Belot, D. Bert, D. Califano, P. Ongier, P. Boobyer, H. Castel (injury); Bert replaced by V. Molia (62); Califano replaced by P. Lassere (69).

SWANSEA: R. Boobyer, A. Harris, M. Taylor, D. Weatherley, S. Simon Davies, A. Williams, R. Jones, C. Loder, S. Jenkins, K. Colclough, R. Appleyard, S. Moore, A. Moore, A. Reynolds, S. Sean Davies, Reynolds replaced by M. Evans (28); A. Moore replaced by M. Thomas (37).

Referee: J. Herring (Scotland)

they will probably have to beat them twice at Wembley.

Worthing Bears, 106-91 winners against Newcastle Comets on Friday, fell 102-97 away to Derby Storm, despite 30 points from Cunningham.

The Comets won 94-89 away to Herne Hempstead Royals, the bottom club, having led by 20 points at one stage.

Results, page 24

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South American river that provided opportunity for catch of a lifetime

A belated Christmas present has Brian Clarke reminiscing about a memorable fishing trip to the Rio Grande two years ago

Sharks still in hunt for title

THERE must be something about the Doncaster Dome that is much to the liking of Shire Sharks (Nicholas Harling writes). On the very court where they secured the Budweiser League basketball title last spring, the champions swept aside Doncaster Panthers 94-91 on Saturday to emphasise that their defence is far from being a lost cause.

The Panthers were taken

apart by an early burst of 15 successive points that enabled the Sharks to finish the first quarter with a lead of 22-4, after which the outcome was never in doubt.

For once, Huggins, of the Sharks, was upstaged. His 13 points were bettered by Cauthorn, with 23, and Finch, with 16.

If the Sharks are to catch

London Towers, the leaders,

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Wansea lead
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John Goodbody reports on the astonishing courage of a man who is setting out to walk to the South Pole

A new Scott braves the Antarctic wastes

Travelling on foot to the South Pole remains, like climbing Mount Everest, or swimming the English Channel, a feat of almost mythical endeavour that transcends competitive sport.

The first successful ascent of Everest, by Hillary and Tenzing, and the first Channel swim, by Captain Matthew Webb, are woven into the fabric of history.

So is the story of Scott of the Antarctic. His narrow failure to become the first man to reach the South Pole increased the poignancy of his subsequent death along with colleagues, including Captain Oates, who left the shelter of their tent with the words: "I'm going outside and may be some time."

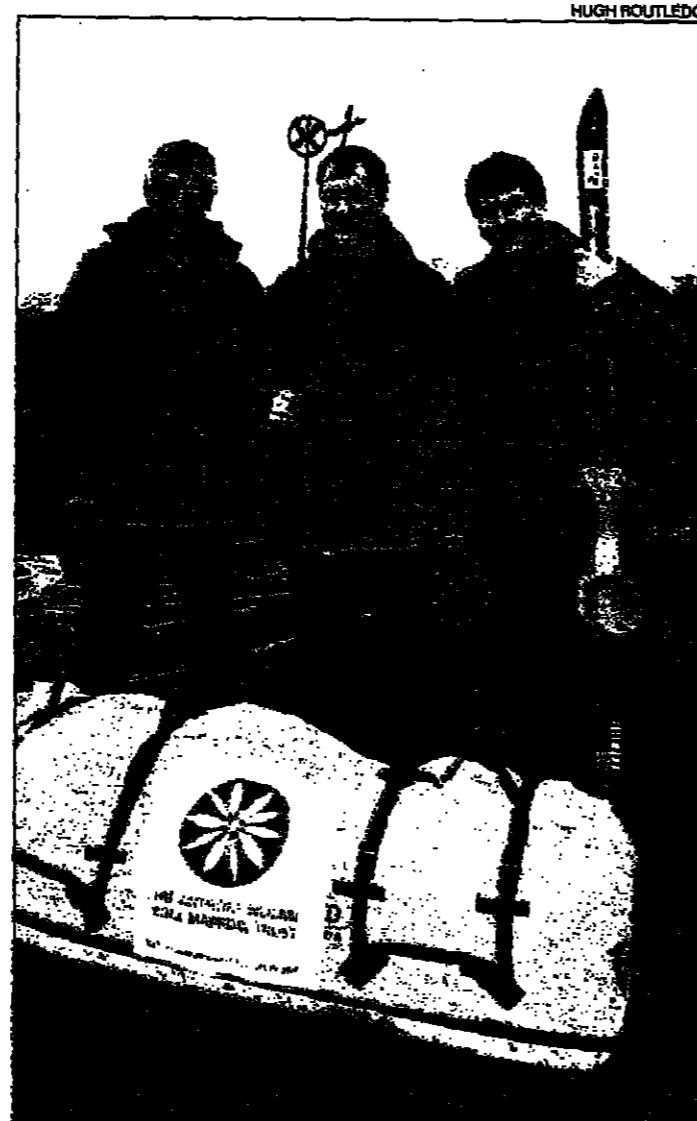
However, the incentive for Lloyd Scott to emulate his famous namesake has not primarily been aroused by a desire to fulfil a lifetime's ambition. Instead, it is his desire to raise money for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

It is this trust to which he owes a debt that he has been unable, in his own mind, to repay, even with the thousands of pounds that he has raised from running marathons.

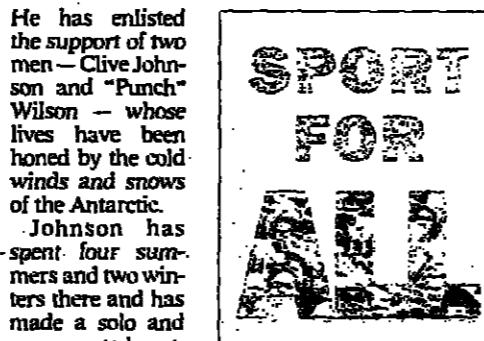
Scott played league football with Watford, Blackpool and Orient before becoming a fireman. While saving two small boys from their burning home, he inhaled some black smoke. He had to go for hospital tests and it was while these were being completed that he was discovered to be suffering from leukaemia. To get fit for a bone-marrow transplant operation in 1989, he began running, finishing his first London Marathon in 3hr 11min.

Despite the operation, he returned to marathons, completing several other London races and also the Everest Marathon, taking 2½ weeks of trekking through the Himalayas to reach the start. This spring, he will compete in the Flora London Marathon and the Marathon of the Sahara, perhaps the world's most arduous foot race, as preparation for the crossing of the Antarctic.

Lloyd Scott and his namesake have a common bond apart from their fascination with the Antarctic. Kathleen, Captain Scott's wife, died from leukaemia. It is the determination to raise money for the trust, on which so many people depend to offer them hope of survival, that has been the motivating force behind Lloyd Scott's quest to reach the South Pole. He plans to reach his goal on Christmas Day 1996.



Preparing for an ultimate test of endurance: Lloyd Scott, centre, with fellow expedition members "Punch" Wilson and Clive Johnson



They will each drag sledges weighing 300lb and will have no mechanical transport or outside directional help. There will also be no re-supply of fuel or food. It is a journey that takes men to the limits

miles by either ski walking or using kites to pull them along. It is likely to take them up to 60 days. The greatest problem they face is raising the £100,000 necessary to finance the trip, but the journey itself remains onerous for even the fittest and most dedicated of men.

The Norwegians have maintained their reputation since Amundsen beat Scott to the South Pole. Their training includes jogging while pulling tyres tied to a rope looped around the waist. The trio plan to copy this regime in training.

Despite the physical hardships of the Antarctic, Wilson is enraptured by the scenery that they will experience. "You are right in the middle of nowhere," he said.

"There is virgin snow and a totally pure environment. It is nature at its rawest, and I find it incredibly attractive."

• The Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, Hampstead, London NW3 2QG (0171-284 1234).

of human endurance and fewer than 100 have completed it.

Scott's rate of recovery is affected by the intensive chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment that he received during his recovery from leukaemia. Johnson is insistent that the party has to keep to a routine of between 12 and 15 miles a day. The speed must not be too fast because otherwise the men will begin to sweat.

Johnson said: "Sweat is an enemy. The vapour can get frozen on the inner clothes. Generally, it is better to remain on the cold side rather than to be too warm."

The trio will each consume about 5,500 calories a day, which is needed to cope with the cold and exercise. "This is still not really enough, but it is almost physically impossible to consume as much as you need," Johnson said. Carbohydrates, the staple diet for long-distance runners and cyclists, cannot be readily eaten in the huge quantities required to supply the necessary calories. Instead, Antarctic explorers consume lots of fat from butter, dried milk and vegetables, chocolate and occasionally some pasta.

Possible hazards that they might face include becoming separated in a "white out", when it snows so hard that you can lose sight of people only a few feet away.

To prepare for the journey that will take them from Hercules Inlet to the South Pole, Scott has been using a NordicTrack to simulate the action of skiing. He has also had his fitness monitored in a gymnasium run by Havering Council, in London. There, he has been working on step machines because the action of dragging a sledge puts greater demand on thighs than pure running.

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Lloyd Scott taking part in the Everest Marathon — now he will face the Antarctic

Pearson's sense of direction puts Farlington on the map

BY DAVID POWELL

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

IF THE mistake had to be made, Laura Pearson is one of the last people you would have expected to make it. The Sussex under-17 girls cross country championship was nearing its conclusion and most athletes knew where the finish was. The exception was Pearson, whose sense of geographical position is normally among the best. Pearson is the British schools under-16 orienteering champion. That makes her a champion at knowing where she is and where she is going.

She laughs now at the error that cost her a spot in the Sussex team. "I missed our by one place," she said. "I finished sixth and it was the first five to be picked. I did not know where the finish was. I had been told that, when we came out of the woods, there was a lap of the field to go, but it was half a lap."

No great loss. Running pure cross country does not appeal to Pearson anyway. It is orienteering that gives her an adrenalin rush. "I do not enjoy cross country much, because it

is continuous running," Pearson said. "I use cross-country races as training for orienteering. I find athletics boring. Orienteering gives you something to do while you are running round."

"A chip off the old block," Sue Pearson is Laura's mother, a science and PE teacher at Farlington School, Horsham, where orienteering is the most recent addition to the extracurricular programme, an option for the past 15 months.

"It gets the girls running distances further than they would contemplate around a track, and gives them more exercise than many would have thought possible," Mrs

Pearson said. "That is the appeal."

Mrs Pearson had "a huge response" to the introduction of orienteering at Farlington. "Because it involves running and reading a map, they are exercising brain and body," she said. "The girls who can run are not necessarily at an advantage. It offers something to the girls who might not consider themselves particularly athletic."

Only two Farlington girls went to the 1995 British schools championships, but the school has its sights on entering a team. "Until they get out at weekends and do events on a regular basis, they are not able to get the experience," Mrs Pearson said.

Sending schoolgirls off into woodland areas, one at a time at two-minute intervals, may appear unwise, but Mrs Pearson is adamant that the safety regulations offer adequate precautions. "Even when you are retired, you must report to the finish, so that is a safety aspect," she said. "They carry a whistle and we have never

had an instance of anyone being lost in any sort of bottom."

Farlington, an independent school, has 344 pupils, day girls mainly, but some boarders. "We try to do a wide variety of sports," Cath Tagg, the head of PE, said. "We are not trying to develop champions. We do it because they enjoy it and, if they become champions, that is a bonus." Laura Pearson is a bonus, the school's most successful sportsgirl, although, in terms of Parlington is on the map in equestrianism. It holds the National Schools Equestrian Association trophy.

Pearson has been in orienteering since the age of eight, starting with her parents. "I enjoyed it, but I did not want to get out of bed," she said. "I never had a lay-in, it was like a school day. I began to get serious about it when I was 14. She is 16 now."

This [1996] is Farlington's centenary year. In its early days, the school made no pretence at being academic. Instead, the tone was "how to be ladylike". Now, it is written in the school brochure that "the future is female... with their superior powers of communication, it looks likely that women will sweep the board in many spheres of life."

For years at Farlington, sport was not coached. "The theory of hockey was never explained to us," Cynthia Petward, a former pupil, is quoted as saying in the school's centenary book. Now, though, through sport, its pupils "learn the value of determination, co-operation, self-discipline and awareness of others."

Pearson is an example of that determination. Her weakness is map-memory skills. She is trying to improve them through an exercise whereby she reads a map, runs for two minutes, then describes the section that she has just run. The running takes her out of her front door and back again. A testing routine, though comforting to know where the finish is.



Pearson pauses to get her bearings with fellow pupils. Photograph: Andrew Hasson

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes, the best percentage play in a suit depends on the entry situation. Here is an example from the Christmas auction pairs tournament at St John's Wood Bridge Club.

Dealer North Game all Pairs

♦10755	♦42
♦J106	♦K754
♦J1095	♦A4
♦A2	♦87543
♦QJ83	♦K98
♦K92	♦A98
♦Q3	♦K8762
♦J1095	♦KQ

Contract: 3 NT by South

South opened 2 NT after two passes and North raised to 3 NT. How should the declarer play the diamonds, after winning the first club in dummy?

First, how would you play if you had more than one entry? The correct line is to run the jack on the first round of the suit. When the suit is 2-2, it is a toss-up whether you play East for A or Q; but, when East has three cards and West one, running the jack gains when West has the singleton 3, 4 or ace, and loses only if West has the singleton queen.

On the first round of the suit and again you cannot pick up his remaining Qx. So, you lead low to the king, to cater for singleton queen.

It is a pleasing paradox. With two entries, the only losing 3-1 break is when West has the singleton queen: with one entry, that is the only winning layout. On the hand today, virtue is rewarded if South puts up the king — the queen does not fall singleton, but, if just so happens, the 2-2 break is the one that makes the king the winning play.

You should not try to learn suit combinations by rote. You should work them out at the table in the way that I describe above. A good new year's resolution.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Prodigy beats record

Luke McShane, the 11-year-old prodigy from Clapham, and Great Britain's brightest hope for a future world championship match, has beaten an impressive record in the Hastings Challengers tournament. On Saturday, McShane defeated Colin McNab, the Scottish grandmaster, thus shaving more than a year off the previous British record for the youngest player to beat a grandmaster. Michael Adams had beaten James Plastow, when 13, while Nigel Short had defeated Tony Miles while still 14.

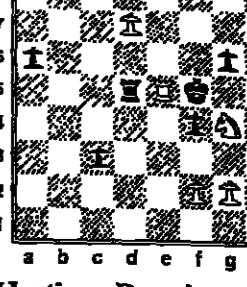
A further remarkable aspect to McShane's victory over the grandmaster was that this win catapulted him into a 100 per cent score, three out of three, to share the lead in a tournament packed with international masters and grandmasters. Here is the historic game.

White: Luke McShane
Black: Colin McNab
Hastings Challengers December 1995

Pirc Defence

1 e4	g6
2 d4	g5
3 Nc3	c6
4 Bc4	Nf6
5 Qd2	Nbd7
6 Nf3	Qc7
7 h3	Bg7
8 Bc4	0-0
9 Bc4	Nxe4
10 Bx4	Rd7
11 Nxe4	Nf6
12 Nf5	Rf8
13 0-0	h6
14 Nf5+	exd6
15 Ne4	g5
16 Nc3	h7
17 d5	c5
18 Nf5	Qd8
19 Bf4	Rf6

Diagram of final position



Hastings Premier

After three rounds of the Hastings Premier tournament, which is composed solely of grandmasters, Stuart Conquest leads with 2½ points.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PAROREXIA

- a. Excessive ambition
- b. An Alpine plant
- c. Perverted taste

PANPSYCHIST

- a. Believer in soul
- b. A natural shrink
- c. A multipurpose athlete

PETITTOES

- a. Pig's trotters
- b. Dauntless
- c. Athlete's foot

BEDIZEN

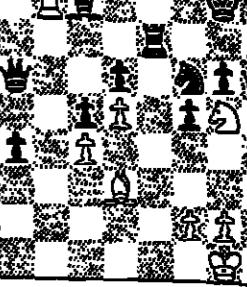
- a. A baker's dozen
- b. To ornament
- c. To trick with language

Answers on page 33

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Speelman — Larsen, Hastings Premier, 1990. Jonathan Speelman has been a regular participant in the Hastings tournaments over the years. How did he break through Black's defences here?



Solution on page 33

Montelado's return delayed

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT LEOPARDSTOWN

MONTELADO, after his abortive trip to Kempton over the Christmas holiday, will run next in the AJG (Europe) Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on January 21.

Pat Flynn's Champion Hurdle hope missed the December Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday. However, Flynn remained upbeat about his stable star. He said: "He is in good shape but he spent three days at Kempton and we

couldn't even take him out for a canter because the ground was like a road. When we pulled him out this morning, he was just a little quiet in himself so I withdrew him."

With the prevailing soft going, it was probably a wise decision to withdraw the injury-prone gelding as two other Champion Hurdle contenders, Hotel Minella and Balawhar, made their first appearance in almost two years, was always behind.

Tony Mullins has no Champion Hurdle illusions for Kharasar, but the gelding is now 10-1 second favourite for The Ladbrooke hurdle. "He will have to carry 10lb more after winning here and at Thurles earlier last month," Mullins said.

Hotel Minella started events favourite to continue the Aidan O'Brien - Charlie Swan run of success but, after making a forward move at the third last, he faded. Balawhar, making his first appearance in almost two years, was always behind.

There was another exciting finish in the Denbys Juvenile Hurdle and a significant Triumph Hurdle clue when the Michael O'Farrell-trained Elas Image fought back after being beaten at the last to beat Theatrewold.

O'Brien won the 1993 Triumph Hurdle with Shawiya and Cheltenham's four-year-old champion is also the aim for Elas Image, now unbeaten in three starts over hurdles.

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On Saturday's edition of *The Morning Line*, "Big Mac" was at his best as he seized upon an innocuous headline in these pages concerning the unopposed election of Lord Wakeham to the chairmanship of the British Horseracing Board (BHB). Never mind the fact that after hitting the proverbial nail on the head he proceeded to hammer his own ring-encrusted fingers as he went into McRabbie mode over such issues as no-one being consulted and the wrongs of the BHB.

The truth is that Wakeham

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because

there was no-one qualified,

for reasons of age, health or ability, to stand against him for the top job in racing. The only possible exception was Matthew McCoy — before an incident on a transatlantic flight.

The lack of apparent leadership talent within racing is a genuine worry. Of course,

there is one person entirely to

blame for this sad state of affairs, namely Peregrine Andrew Morny Cavendish Hartington. If "Stoker" had not proved to be such an inspired leader of the Jockey Club and then the BHB, the adequate or vaguely competent, which had sufficed for decades, would still be acceptable. It isn't anymore.

I believe Wakeham is the ideal chairman given the present stage of the BHB's development. His skill as an

presidential hopefuls begin planning their campaign the moment a new president is elected, so racing should put on its collective thinking cap.

Part of the problem is that those who are well qualified to join the BHB are too busy doing what they are good at.

John Dunlop, the champion Flat trainer, is an obvious example.

Nevertheless, it would be

encouraging to think that

come January 2000, when

the next election for the BHB

chairmanship is likely to

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cludes some people who are

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In the spirit of the New

Year and crystal ball gazing,

how about Philip Freedman,

Anthony Mildmay-White or

Nigel Clark from the Jockey

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Lady Herries, John Gosden

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Happy punting in 1996.

Greater breadth of talent needed to help Wakeham

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Just as important, his political background can only help in the campaign to reduce the unfair burden of overtaxation, and gain control of the Tote. But as the new century dawns and Wakeham prepares to stand aside, then what?

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The Times calendar of sport 1996

OLYMPIC GAMES

July 20: Opening ceremony, Olympic Stadium, Atlanta.
Archery (Stone Mountain)
July 20-24: Men's and women's preliminaries.
July 31: Men's 1st Men's and women's team semi-finals.
Aug 2: Women's and men's team quarter-finals.
Athletics (Olympic Stadium)
July 25-26: Preliminaries and finals.
Aug 2: Men's and women's team semi-finals.
Aug 3: Women's and men's team bronze medal, men's and women's team silver medal, mixed doubles bronze medal.
Aug 4: Women's and men's singles gold medal, mixed doubles gold medal.

Baseball (Atlanta Fulton County Stadium)
July 20-30: Preliminaries.
Aug 1: Semi-finals.
Aug 2: Bronze and gold medal games.

Basketball (Atlanta University Center)
July 20-25: Men's and women's preliminaries.
July 30: Men's quarter-finals and classification.
July 31: Women's quarter-finals and classification.
Aug 1: Men's and women's classification, men's and women's team semi-finals.
Aug 2: Women's team semi-finals, men's finale.
Aug 3: Women's finale, men's bronze and gold medal.
Aug 4: Women's bronze and gold medals.

Boxing (Georgia Tech)
July 20-25: Preliminaries.
July 30-31: Quarter-finals.
Aug 1: Gold medal, first session.
Aug 4: Gold medal, second session.

Canoe-Kayak (Georgia Tech)
July 26: Training runs.
July 27: Women's K1 finals, men's C1 finals.
July 28: Men's C2 finals, men's K1 finals.

Sprint (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
July 30-31: Preliminaries.

Aug 1: Men's 100m, 200m, 400m, all classes; women's 100m, 200m, 400m, all classes.

Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K1 and K2 semi-finals.

Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 1,000m K1 and K2 semi-finals.

Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K1 and K2, finale.

Cycling (Georgia Tech)
July 20-25: Men's and women's individual pursuit.

July 26: Training runs.

July 27: Men's K1 finals, men's C1 finals.

July 28: Men's C2 finals, men's K1 finals.

Sprint (Lake Lanier, Gainesville)
July 30-31: Preliminaries.

Aug 1: Men's 100m, 200m, 400m, all classes; women's 100m, 200m, 400m, all classes.

Aug 2: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K1 and K2 semi-finals.

Aug 3: Men's 1,000m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 1,000m K1 and K2 semi-finals.

Aug 4: Men's 500m kayak and canoe, all classes; women's 500m K1 and K2, finale.

Rowing (Georgia Tech)
July 20: Men's platform preliminaries.

July 21: Women's platform semi-finals and final.

July 25: Men's springboard semi-finals and final.

July 26: Women's springboard semi-finals and final.

Aug 1: Men's platform preliminaries.

Aug 2: Men's platform semi-finals and final.

Equestrian (Georgia International Horse Park)

Dressage (Atlanta)

July 27 and 28: Team preliminaries.

July 31: Individual final.

Aug 3: Individual freestyle final.

Jumping (Georgia Tech)

July 20: Women's platform preliminaries.

July 21: Men's springboard preliminaries.

July 22: Women's and men's individual all.

July 23: Men's team all.

July 24: Women's team all.

July 25: Men's and women's team all.

July 26: Women's and men's team all.

July 27: Men's and women's team all.

July 28: Women's and men's team all.

July 29: Men's and women's team all.

July 30: Men's and women's team all.

July 31: Women's and men's team all.

Aug 1: Men's and women's team all.

Aug 2: Women's and men's team all.

Aug 3: Men's and women's team all.

Aug 4: Individual freestyle.

Handball (Georgia World Congress Center)

July 24-25: Men's and women's preliminaries.

July 26: Women's and men's semi-finals.

July 27: Women's and men's semi-finals.

July 28: Women's and men's semi-finals.

July 29: Women's and men's semi-finals.

July 30: Women's and men's semi-finals.

July 31: Women's and men's semi-finals.

Aug 1: Women's and men's semi-finals.

Aug 2: Women's and men's semi-finals.

Aug 3: Women's and men's semi-finals.

Aug 4: Women's and men's semi-finals.

Hockey (Atlanta University Center)

July 20-22: Men's and women's preliminaries.

July 23: Women's and men's semi-finals.

July 24: Women's and men's bronze and gold medal.

Aug 4: Men's and women's bronze and gold medal.

Modern pentathlon (various sites)

July 30: Final.

John Goodbody still believes the Olympic Games to be the peak of sporting endeavour

There is no event on the sporting calendar of quite such international interest or wide-ranging fascination as the Olympics. The 1996 Games in Atlanta will celebrate the centenary of the first modern Games in Athens and will be attended by a record 190 countries, only North Korea having refused an invitation.

It is the range of the activities that are encompassed within the 17 days of the Games that makes the Olympics such a compelling experience for spectators and billions of television viewers.

The speed of the sprinter, the flexibility of the gymnast, the strength of the weightlifter and the endurance of the marathon runner contribute to a spectacle that is matchless in its scope and quality. Certain countries, through tradition or particular ability, are expected to dominate certain activities in the programme of 26 sports. The Kenyan distance runners, the Japanese judo fighters and the American basketball players provide different aspects of the physical and technical properties of mankind.

However, what often separates the gold from the silver medal-winner is not physical but psychological dominance. The champion is 'frequently the athlete who achieves the focused determination on the day of the final.'

No contemporary competitor has more consistently demonstrated this facility than oarsman Steve Redgrave who will be attempting to win a gold medal in four successive Olympic Games. This would be a unique feat in world rowing and also in any British sport.

It would bring him level with two Olympic legends, Al Oerter, discus champion from 1956 to 1968, and Paul Elvstrøm, the Dane, who won four Finn class yachting titles between 1948 and 1960. Only Aladar Gerevich, who was a member of the successful Hungarian sabre team from 1932 to 1960 (when he was 50) would stand higher in the Olympic pantheon.

Redgrave will be competing in the coxed pairs with Matthew Pinsent, his partner in the 1992 Olympics. Since Barcelona, the pair have remained unbeaten and last year, they took their fourth successive world title.

Britain will also have a cluster of other prospective medal winners in rowing as well as in judo, yachting and swimming, where Mark Foster, Nick Gillingham,



Michael Johnson will be looking to complete a unique Olympic double at 200 and 400 metres

Karen Pickering and Sarah Hardcastle are among the more talented competitors.

However, the track is where the most intense interest will be. The 85,000-seater Olympic stadium will be opened in May, used for three months and then converted for baseball. In its short life it will see US Olympic trials and the Games themselves. Even if Linford Christie decides not to

defend his 100 metres title, Britain should still have available hurdlers Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell, javelin thrower Steve Backley, middle-distance runner Kelly Holmes and triple jumper Jonathan Edwards, whose self-deprecating charm contrasts starkly with so much in an increasingly commercialised sport.

Edwards was the international athlete of the year for 1995 but

even he will be hard pressed to retain this title if Michael Johnson completes a unique Olympic double of the 200 and 400 metres. The person who came closest to this feat was Eric Liddell, with a gold in the 400 metres in the 'Chariots of Fire' Games of 1924, when sport languished in a more innocent age.

Then there is Haile Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, who broke both



Steve Redgrave is seeking to add to his three gold medals



Can Jonathan Edwards repeat last year's triple jump feats?

5,000 and 10,000 metres world records in 1995 and may attempt the double which brought immortality to men like Emil Zapotek, Vladimír Kuts and Lasse Viren.

These will certainly be the Games of the United States, in the city which is the headquarters of Coca-Cola, its most famous product, and in the country whose television pays more than 50 per cent of the worldwide rights.

Atlanta is expecting 200,000 visitors for an event which has 11 million tickets on sale, beginning with the opening ceremony on July 19.

When Los Angeles staged the 1984 Olympics, the venues of even the smallest sports were packed. The Americans revere the Olympics. For them, and for so many other countries, they remain the zenith of sporting endeavour.

BOBSLEIGH

Jan 15-21: BMW World Cup, Corina, Italy.

Jan 22-26: European championships and BMW World Cup, Innsbruck, Austria.

Jan 29-Feb 2: British championships, St Moritz.

Feb 12-14: FIS World Cup (junior), Corina.

Feb 12-24: World championships, Calgary.

Feb 17-21: World cup, Innsbruck.

Feb 17

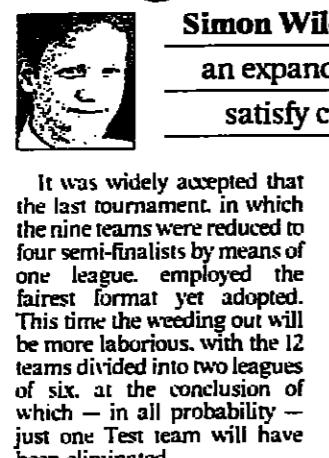
The Times calendar of sport 1996

World Cup seeks to embrace cricket's growing brotherhood

Simon Wilde questions whether an expanded tournament will satisfy cricketing devotees

These days the administrators of every sport seem to be staging a global jamboree every four years and spending the next three tinkering with the product. What can they do to extract more money from sponsors and television next time? How can they keep up the sport's profile with competitors? Tinker, tinker, tinker, that is how — and in doing so, they sorely test the patience and commitment of the devoted follower.

Cricket's sixth World Cup, which opens with a ceremony in Calcutta on February 11, is unlikely to break this pattern. Although India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the hosts, will stage two fewer matches than the 39 put on by Australia and New Zealand when the event last took place in 1992, this time the nine Test-playing nations will be joined by three newcomers — the minnows of Holland, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates.



It was widely accepted that the last tournament in which the nine teams were reduced to four semi-finalists by means of one league, employed the fairest format yet adopted. This time the weeding out will be more laborious, with the 12 teams divided into two leagues of six: at the conclusion of which — in all probability — just one Test team will have been eliminated.

The organisers, who are sure to reap large profits, will not care about this absurdity and nor will the television companies, who expect that the final in Lahore on March 17 will claim a worldwide audience of 1.5 billion, an impressive increase on the one billion that watched Pakistan beat England by 22 runs in Melbourne four years ago.

One alteration, at least, is essential. It was imperative that the farcical rain-rule that left South Africa needing 22 runs from one ball to beat England in a semi-final in Sydney was abandoned and a more logical system is on the verge of being adopted.

Some innovations from the Australasian tournament are here to stay. Coloured clothing, white balls and flood-lights are now an established part of the cricketing scene and it is conceivable that before the next World Cup is held, in England in 1999, a Test match will have been played under these conditions.

Such a prominent stage will make and break reputations and encourage some to announce their retirements while in the limelight. Sachin

Tendulkar and Brian Lara may vie for the batting honours, three spinners, Anil Kumble, Mushtaq Ahmed and Shane Warne, for the bowling plaudits, and Jonty Rhodes may remain pre-eminent in the outfield.

For those who succeed, there will be sizeable riches: not through prize-money, which remains insultingly meagre (the winning team will collect a mere £20,000), but from commercial spin-offs and gifts from governments and admirers.

And this, of course, is where the trouble started after the last World Cup, when Pakistan's players — in the words of Imran Khan, then their captain — "got greedy". Materialism dominated their thoughts and led, it has been alleged, to prolific betting on the outcome of their matches and attempts at match-fixing.

The position of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the world governing body, is open to ridicule by the fact that it is not responsible for the day-to-day running of this World Cup. That is in the hands of the hosts, whose organising committee recently needed to be urged to take responsibility for scrutinising ground safety after several people were killed and many injured when a wall collapsed at Nagpur.

If only for the sake of its own credibility, the ICC will be anxious that the tournament passes off smoothly, which may also depend on India and Pakistan not being drawn together in the knockout stages. For political and ethnic reasons, they have not met at anything but a neutral venue for six years.

Despite their troubles, Pakistan still possess the talent to win again: so too, do West Indies. Victory might heal the divisions: an early exit for either could lead to further

1996 CRICKET WORLD CUP

GROUP A	
India	Pakistan
Australia	England
West Indies	New Zealand
Sri Lanka	South Africa
Zimbabwe	Holland
Kenya	United Arab Emirates

GROUP B	
Pakistan	England
India	New Zealand
Kenya	South Africa
West Indies	Holland
Sri Lanka	Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe	Kenya
Kenya	West Indies

QUARTER-FINALS	
Mar 9: <i>West Indies v India</i>	<i>South Africa v New Zealand</i>
Mar 10: <i>England v Pakistan</i>	<i>Holland v Kenya</i>
Mar 11: <i>Third group A v Third group B</i>	<i>Kenya v Zimbabwe</i>
Mar 12: <i>Third group B v Third group C</i>	<i>Holland v South Africa</i>
Mar 13: <i>Third group C v Third group D</i>	<i>Kenya v India</i>
Mar 14: <i>Final</i>	<i>England v Pakistan</i>

SEMI-FINALS	
Mar 15: <i>West Indies v India</i>	<i>South Africa v New Zealand</i>
Mar 16: <i>England v Pakistan</i>	<i>Holland v Kenya</i>
Mar 17: <i>Kenya v Zimbabwe</i>	<i>Kenya v South Africa</i>
Mar 18: <i>Holland v South Africa</i>	<i>Kenya v India</i>
Mar 19: <i>Final</i>	<i>England v Pakistan</i>

Map showing the locations of the 1996 Cricket World Cup matches across India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Year	Winner
1975	England
1979	India
1983	India
1987	India
1991	India

disunity, not to mention dismissals among the managerial ranks.

England, three times runners-up, are perhaps too inconsistent to go one step further this time but their biggest handicap is a woeful

lack of experience at tackling limited-overs tournaments. Since the last World Cup, they have participated in fewer of these than any of the other Test-playing countries.

Sri Lanka are attractive underdogs. In October they

won the Champions Trophy in Sharjah and turned in some excellent performances, including a bold attempt to chase 334 to beat West Indies. But, on recent form, India and Australia are in a class of their own. They have each

won four limited-overs events since the last World Cup: India winning the Hero Cup in 1993 and a triangular competition with West Indies and New Zealand last year. It will take a fine side to stop either of them.

FIRST-CLASS CRICKET FIXTURES 1996

APRIL	
13-UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)	The Parks, Oxford
14-UNIVERSITY MATCH (four days)	The Parks, Oxford
15-REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (four days)	Southampton
16-UNIVERSITY MATCH (four days)	Old Trafford
17-UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day)	The Oval
18-COUNTY MATCH (four days)	Old Trafford
19-TELETSY'S SHIELD	Grange CC, Old Trafford
20-UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days)	Fenner's, Cambridge University v Derbyshire
21-UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day)	The Parks, Oxford University v Middlesex
22-UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day)	The Parks, Oxford University v Warwickshire
23-UNIVERSITY MATCHES (one day)	Old Trafford, Lancashire v Middlesex
24-UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day)	The Parks, British Universities v Warwickshire
25-UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day)	The Parks, Oxford University v Middlesex
26-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP	Fenner's, British Universities v Middlesex
27-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP	Old Trafford, Lancashire v Warwickshire
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US giant adopts poison pill plan

WESTINGHOUSE Electric Corporation, fresh from the takeover of CBS, the American television network, has put in place a "poison pill" to discourage hostile takeover bids. The Westinghouse board adopted the plan that would allow existing shareholders to acquire preferred voting shares if any potential acquiring party obtains 15 per cent of the company's shares or bids for 30 per cent or more.

The move, already adopted by several other US companies, adds significantly to the cost of a hostile takeover bid. "The board of directors believes that the shareholder rights plan represents a sound and reasonable means of safeguarding the interests of shareholders," said Michael Jordan, chairman of Westinghouse.



Jordan: new safeguard

Shakeout in store for life sector

BY MARIANNE CURPHEN

THE UK's life assurance industry has been slow to respond to the demands of regulators because its culture and cost structure is based on old selling techniques, claims a new survey.

The report, which examines the future for life companies in the aftermath of the pensions mis-selling scandal, predicts a "shakeout" in the market. It says when all customers have been compensated there will be few companies left which rely entirely on life assurance activity.

The pensions scandal is already proving costly to companies which are having to track down consumers who have a legitimate grievance, it says. This leaves many companies vulnerable.

The compensation bill is yet to come, to be shouldered by shareholders and policyholders' reserves. Estimates of the bill to be footed range close to £3 billion, but have been quoted as high as £4 billion — with an extra cost in administration to find the victims of some £400 million to be added to the damage," according to the report published this week by Mintel.

The report also highlights the effect of the Financial Services Act, which regulates

the way life companies conduct their business.

The FSA and the regulators had a "hidden agenda" to change the industry from one which sold products by "hard sell" to one which responded to genuine demand from customers, it claims. However, this would involve keen price competition and a dismantling of the old structures.

According to Mintel, life companies believe the regulatory structure has not worked and are "to say the least unsure about how to fulfil the expectations of the current operating system". But it says there is room for optimism: "Life assurance provides a vital service which consumers need; if basic life cover can be provided at low enough cost it can be profitable."

Social and demographic change will increase the need for pensions and care for the old, and the industry will be needed to serve these demands. It concludes: "If companies match up to the best international standards of operations and management, the expertise they have will ensure their survival and place in a global market where there are large areas of underdevelopment and thus explosive growth potential."



Duncan Lewis, leading British contender for C&W chief

C&W decision due

DUNCAN LEWIS, the former chief executive of Mercury Communications, will learn this month whether he has a good chance of becoming the next chief executive of Cable and Wireless (Eric Reguly writes).

The board of C&W will draw up a shortlist of candi-

dates for the position by the middle of the month. Mr Lewis, who quit Mercury, which is 80 per cent owned by C&W, in September, is considered the top British contender.

Russell Reynolds, the head-hunting firm, is also looking

for candidates in America.

Mr Lewis would not comment. It is known that C&W's interest puts him in a difficult situation. He has received a job offer from a company in another industry and must decide whether to take it or gamble on the C&W job. The winner is unlikely to be chosen before the spring.

Mr Lewis has broad

background from institutions. They supported his effort to reshape Mercury into a smaller company that focused on business customers.

The chief executive's position has been vacant since November 21, when James Ross was ousted along with Lord Young, the executive chairman.

Canberra cooler on foreign investors

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

OVERSEAS companies are being warned not to make any large-scale moves into Australia for the next few months because they run the risk of becoming caught up in a growing pre-election row over foreign ownership.

The warning from corporate advisers follows the Australian Government's decision to impose conditions on RTZ's merger with CRA, its Australian arm, which has been seen as an attempt to win over voters worried by the rising tide of foreign control of Australian assets.

An industry consultant, who advised British and American companies, says that any company trying to buy into Australia could end up in a political battle that could irrevocably damage its prospects.

He said: "Both political parties are playing the xenophobia card more and more. The CRA move reflects an increased defensiveness which has not surfaced so strongly for the past three or four years. Foreign companies must come into Australia with their eyes open."

While the final conditions set for the RTZ-CRA merger are not particularly onerous — RTZ must reduce its stake in CRA from 49 per cent to 39 per cent over the next ten years — the Government's intervention has raised fears that it signals a toughening of foreign ownership rules.

Last month, the Government intervened in the proposed purchase by an overseas investor of a theme park in Queensland, ordering that an Australian investor be given eight days to come up with an alternative offer.

Economists, meanwhile, have given warning that, with a current account deficit running at about A\$20 billion (£9.6 billion) for 1995-96, Australia cannot afford to be too choosy about what it lets foreign investors buy.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

banker, a magazine editor, and a PR executive, is currently a councillor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. If that's not a sufficiently wide parish in which to have heard it all, I don't know what is. Phelps has now penned *You Don't Say* (Macmillan, £5.99), a dictionary of misquotations of real quotes and non-quotes from the living and the dead, the rich and the poor, from home and abroad. It's a good read — and you may quote me.

Vodka verse

FURTHER in the Pennington comment on the scrap over the right to use the Smirnoff name for vodka, Joan Woolard, of Fleet Hargate, Lincolnshire, writes:

The Czarist spirit known to be haughty. Claims GrandMet to have been a bit naughty. The brand Smirnoff Could be a turn-off. And White Russian not GrandMet's forte.

COLIN CAMPBELL

TIPS FOR 1996

The Sunday Times: BSG International, TransTec, Ladbrokes, Biota, Trocadero, Burton, Caradon, Chamberlain Phipps, Independent on Sunday, Great Universal Stores, Trafalgar House, Stagecoach Holdings, Pet City, Groupe Chez Gerard, Self Sealing Systems, Cantab Pharmaceuticals, Hanson, British Gas, Storehouse, Capital Radio, Amec, Allied Leisure, Salix. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Tomkins, EFT Group, Waverley Mining Finance, TT Group, James Finlay, Rexan, Electrophoretic Int, USM, Small Companies IT, Alders. *The Observer*: The Rank Organisation, Glaxo Wellcome, Charter Consolidated, Rentokil, Hays, BET, Burton, Great Universal Stores, Berkeley Homes, Redrow, Greenalls.

AIM to build on bright start

PROSPECTS remain bright for the Alternative Investment Market, the new market for smaller and growing companies, which has proved a big success in its first six months of trading.

After another solid week, the number of companies traded on AIM remained at 121, compared with ten when the new market started life on June 19. Capitalisation has increased steadily and now tops £2 billion, while money

raised on AIM grew to £94 million.

One trader at Winterflood Securities, a market-maker in all the stocks listed on AIM, said that trading last week was fairly busy, a surprise at this time of the year.

There was good two-way business in Stanford Rock Holdings, the pharmaceutical company that recently made a heavily oversubscribed placing at 200p a share. It ended the week at 265p, while KS

Biomedix, which had a recent placing and rights at 90p a share, finished at 125p in spite of profit-taking on Friday.

Prospects for AIM remain bright and should be boosted by the introduction of a new FT-AIM index this month, which will enable the institutions to measure the market's performance.

Looking ahead, dealers eagerly await the return to the AIM of Ian Gowrie-Smith, the former head and founder of

Medeva, the pharmaceuticals group. His SkyePharma vehicle, which effectively reversed into Black & Edgington, the business support services group, is due to start trading on January 9. Dealers report significant demand in advance of the issue, suggesting a healthy premium over an initial placing and open offer price of 4p. There is talk by some traders of a premium of up to 4p, effectively providing a 100 per cent gain on day one.

Mr Lewis is unlikely to be chosen before the spring.

Mr Lewis has broad

background from institutions. They supported his effort to reshape Mercury into a smaller company that focused on business customers.

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Mark Tinker, left, of James Capel, is bullish about the coming year, expecting a year-end FT-SE 100 index of 4,000, while Michael Hughes, at BZW, forecasts a more cautious 3,750



Michael Hughes, at BZW, forecasts a more cautious 3,750

Equity strategists play it safe as election casts a shadow over City

After a year in which many forecasters were well off the mark

Philip Pangalos asks several analysts for their 1996 predictions

After a spectacular recovery for UK equities in 1995, City wizards and gurus have been peering into their crystal balls to see what 1996 holds for the UK stock market in the run-up to the next general election.

The past 12 months have seen shares make up for a dismal 1994, which saw the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares lose 10.3 per cent. In 1995, the FT-SE 100 advanced by 62.8 points to end the year at 3,689.3, an annual rise of 20.3 per cent. Britain's "feel-good" recovery may not have taken place, but shareholders generally saw the value of their capital investments rocket, and 1995 will probably be remembered as a vintage year. Maybe it's a case of "it's better to travel than to arrive". Time will tell.

Having had their fingers burnt a year ago, equity strategists are playing it safe this time around. Their predictions a year ago ranged from a bearish 2,800 to a bullish 3,750, but most fell short of the mark. Their FT-SE 100 target forecasts for where the index of leading shares will end this year range from a bearish 3,400 to a bullish 4,250.

Ian Harnett, equity strategist at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, is pleased with himself, having predicted an end-1995 FTSE range of between 3,500 and 3,750. He remains bullish on prospects for UK equities in 1996 and is looking for a further advance to between 4,000 and 4,250 in the coming year. He said: "The risks are very much geared to stronger out-performance. Merger and acquisition activity is going to dominate."

Dr Harnett favours sectors such as housebuilders and some of the main consumer retailers and food retailers, though he is wary about the utility sectors, which could see more bid activity but are shrouded by political risk. Dr Harnett said: "This [the market's performance in 1995] isn't a bubble; it's based on fundamentals and it can be sustained."

Sterling is also expected to be weak, but this should spur on international stocks. Inflation is seen picking up to about 3.5 per cent on an underlying basis, while GDP growth is forecast at 2.75 per cent for 1996.

Michael Hughes, managing director of economics and strategy at

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, is relatively cautious on prospects for UK equities in the coming year. BZW has pencilled in an end-1996 FT-SE 100 forecast of 3,750, with a degree of caution built in because 1996 is seen as an election year. Mr Hughes favours sectors with an exposure to economic growth, including building materials, diversified industrials, selected spirits and general retailers, all of which are expected to benefit from a pick-up in consumer spending.

For gils, Mr Hughes expects the ten-year yield of about 7.5 per cent to rise to about 8.25 per cent, which "would be a shot across the bows", reflecting electoral uncertainty. "Any run-up to the election is theoretically more volatile," he said. "It's a pretty even race between the two main parties."

At UBS, Tim Brown, UK equity strategist, and Bill Martin, chief UK economist, are looking for a FT-SE 100 target of 3,900. GDP growth of 2.5 per cent and inflation rising to about 3.4 per cent by the fourth quarter. Mr Brown expects the UK equity market to be strong in the first half, reflecting an anticipated fall in interest rates and cash in the systems. He added that prospects for UK equities are "nothing to get really excited about, but the trend is upwards".

Mark Tinker, UK strategist at James Capel, has pencilled in a bullish 1996 FT-SE 100 target of 4,000, though he admits there is considerable political uncertainty before the general election.

Mr Tinker said: "Growth will remain solid. You've got the stimulus coming from lower interest rates and continued profit growth. However, politics is the enemy out there waiting to ambush equities." He added that the political concerns are more dangerous for equities than for bonds, with the distinct possibility that a Labour government could raise corporation tax, extend ACT or impose a windfall tax on the likes of privatised utilities.

James Capel is looking for earnings growth to climb from about 13.3 per

cent in 1995 to 15.6 per cent in 1996, though dividend growth is expected to slow from 11.8 per cent in 1995 to 8.7 per cent in 1996. This puts the market on a price earnings ratio of 13.3 times in 1996, compared with 15.4 times in 1995, with the gross dividend yield seen rising from 4.2 per cent in 1995 to 4.7 per cent in 1996.

Mr Tinker said: "The first half of 1996 is going to be nervous for the equity market. There will be a tendency for investors to go big and boring, though there is good value out there in the cyclical."



Risks are geared to stronger outperformance. Merger activity will dominate

— Ian Harnett

Merger and acquisition activity is also expected to continue, with a strong economic case for consolidation because a "cash-rich but nervous" corporate sector is likely to result in more acquisitions, special dividends and share buy-backs.

Nick Knight, head of strategy at Nomura, the Japanese securities house, remains bearish on prospects for UK equities. A year ago, he was looking for the FT-SE 100 to end 1995 at 3,200; now he has pencilled in a FT-SE 100 target of 3,600.

However, he fears that political concerns and a soft landing could see

Mr Knight said 1995's bid activity was relatively sectorally concentrated. Future bids are expected to attract more hurdles from the regulators, with more referrals anticipated because of the adverse political implications on job losses.

Philip Isherwood, UK strategist at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, is looking for a FT-SE 100 target of 3,850. Mr Isherwood expects a spillover in the first four months, driven on the upside by lower interest rates and M&A activity, but offset by a "half a lot of downgrades".

Kleinwort has a GDP forecast of 2.3 per cent for the year, with 2.8 per cent anticipated in Q4, which in turn is expected to see bond weakness. Kleinwort is looking for inflation to see RPIX at about 2.7 per cent by the end of the year, with sterling expected to be stable to easier. The Dow Jones, which advanced 32.5 per cent in 1995, is also forecast to continue rising to about 5,600 by the end of the year, though the advance is expected to be first-half loaded.

Kleinwort anticipates an autumn 1996 general election, which it expects Labour to win. The short-term result of this is seen as delayed investment, but increased M&A activity ahead of anticipated regulatory uncertainty.

Kleinwort forecasts 7.5 per cent dividend growth in 1996, with an anticipated "clean" dividend yield of 4.55 per cent predicted for December 1996, compared with 4.2 per cent for December 1995. Electoral and economic risk is expected to see the market trade on a price earnings multiple of 13.5 times next year, compared with 16.5 times in 1995.

Bob Semple, UK strategist at NatWest Securities, is going for a cautious FT-SE 100 target of 3,700 in what he expects to be "a year of halves". Mr Semple said: "The first quarter and second quarter will be the best period for the market. More bids and more interest rate cuts could drive the market to 3,900 or 4,000 if the political risk remains supportive."

However, he fears that political

concerns and a soft landing could see

the bond market lose some of its shine, while recovery for some sectors is still some way away and uncertainty about domestic and overseas economies remains. "A probable Labour general election victory leads us to conclude that investors should be looking to take advantage of any market run in the first half to lock in its gains," he added.

Philip Wolstenholme, at Merrill Lynch, the Wall Street stockbroker that took over Smith New Court, has a FT-SE 100 target of 3,850 in a year expected to see further industry consolidation and continued M&A activity. Bond yields are expected to slip from 7.5 per cent in 1995 to 7 per cent in 1996, while interest rates are forecast to end 1996 at 5.75 per cent.

Merrill Lynch expects earnings growth to slow but is keen on financials, such as banks and insurance stocks, while consumer cyclicals, such as leisure, housebuilders and car retailers, should benefit from a pick-up in spending.

George Hodgson at SBC Warburg has a FT-SE 100 target of 3,750, which implies limited progress. Warburg remains keen on broadly defensive stocks, as well as the consumer goods and financials sectors, but is cautious on industrial areas which may not be the woods yet.

Pamure Gordon, which was last year's bear with an end-1995 FT-SE 100 target of 2,800, has decided not to publicise its forecast for 1996.

Paul Walton, equity strategist at Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, has pencilled in a FT-SE 100 target of 3,400. Mr Walton, who has been bullish in the past, has turned bearish and expects equities to be depressed by a slowing economy and profit downgrades, with political risk predicted to further undermine sentiment. Mr Walton is looking for only 1.75 per cent GDP growth and 5 per cent earnings growth, against a consensus of about 12 per cent. Gilts are expected to benefit.

Strategists seem to have most angles covered, but if investors want to be safe they should look at companies with intrinsic earnings growth, healthy exports, strong balance sheets and high-quality management — if that's not asking too much.

— Ian Harnett

Christine Buckley foresees a multi-utility future

New year 'baby' heralds trend towards linked public services

Today's new year babies include United Utilities. Born officially on January 1 from the union of North West Water and Norweb, the regional electricity company, it is Britain's first multi-utility and from now on will provide two essential services to 7 million customers from one corporate base.

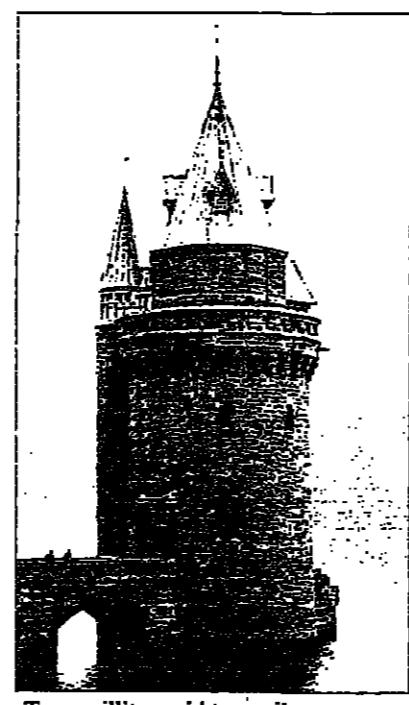
The merger of the two companies, which triggered a wave of consumer fears of the implications of one group handling the provision of two utilities, creates one of the country's 50 largest businesses that will achieve annual sales of £2.5 billion.

Several hundred jobs are expected to be lost as the integration of the businesses that form United completed, with cost savings reaching many millions of pounds as duplicated services such as billing and metering are combined. Additionally there are large savings to be made on combining headquarters and personnel resources.

United is the first multi-utility but it will certainly not be the last. Andrew Stone, utilities analyst at Daiwa, says: "There are likely to be other such link-ups. Companies will look at the savings being made and the pressure will be on them to take similar action. The merger of North West and Norweb created an important precedent and opened the gate to other takeovers and multi-utilities."

The Office of Fair Trading is currently scrutinising proposals for the takeover of South Wales Electricity by Welsh Water. Last week, the Director-General of Fair Trading extended his review of the agreed bid before deciding whether to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The chances are, however, that he will not refer the bid but insist instead on further ringfencing points to keep the electricity and water businesses operating separately.

London Electricity and Thames Water are in the midst of a strategic review of their businesses, aiming to join forces on operations they have in common. With such a close-fitting customer base they



Tranquillity amid turmoil over water

have working parties looking at merging billing and metering, along with combining databases. A spokeswoman said: "We share so many customers that it makes good sense to see what facilities and operations we can share."

So far, London and Thames have dismissed talk of a full merger but the tie-ups they are investigating promise to be wide-ranging. Both companies have recently spent considerably on establishing new customer service bases outside the capital, with London shifting its operations to Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, and Thames to Swindon. It is possible that when the working parties report this year, this strategy may have to be

rethought. The joint operations also have important implications for a takeover. If a predator moved on London, for example, there would be strong pressure to take both companies if their shared operations were substantial.

Before the current wave of mergers across utilities, the names on everyone's lips were Yorkshire Water and Yorkshire Electricity. The electricity company has signalled strongly that it wishes to remain independent from takeover so a link with its water neighbour would make defensive and cost-saving strength. Like London and Thames the two are also working on areas of co-operation.

However, after the controversy surrounding Yorkshire Water's drought measures and water supply, the electricity company is likely to be very cautious about a full-blown merger.

When Welsh Water announced that Swalec had finally succumbed to the somewhat acrimonious courtship it mounted on the electricity provider, the company said that its way forward was to be a full provider of infrastructure services. It was interested in offering a range of public service activities, including strengthening its road-building operations.

In this strategy Welsh showed that it wants to emulate multi-utilities across the channel, such as Generale des Eaux and Lyonnaise des Eaux, which operate an array of services from water supply to parking warden.

Multi-utilities will also figure in ever larger numbers as Britain gears up to full competition in the energy market in 1998. With the regional electricity companies increasingly stepping up their activities in gas output, the provision of several public service needs by one company makes competitive logic. The emphasis on fuel price reduction for customers means the companies will have to be ever more inventive to cut costs.

Strategic links and mergers are a natural answer.

Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz — naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

SEIKO
KINETIC

RADIO CHOICE

The road to the gallows

The Monday Play: The Nuremberg Trial. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

I shudder to think how much research, microphone time and editing went into Martin Jenkins's and John Prochary's dramatic documentary. The result triumphantly justifies the effort. This is an all-embracing reconstruction of the 316 days in 1945-46 when 22 top Nazis tried the world's charges with war crimes. The structure is both highly complex and classically simple. Accusers and accused, defence and defendant, and the tribunal judge, are all played by actors, delivering lines that Peter Goodchild plucked from the transcripts of the trial. Every stage of the tribunal is summarised by expert legal witnesses. We are spared neither the horrors of the Nazi atrocities nor their grisly denouement on the gallows.

Ken Russell's Movie Classic. Classic FM, 7.00pm.

I was expecting the wayward film director to present dialogue scenes from film. How wrong can you be. In his 13-part series, Russell introduces excerpts only from film scores. He does it with authority, as befits a film-maker who has relied heavily on musicians and their talent. Only Russell, I feel, would have been sufficiently knowledgeable to declare that Walton's fugue written for *The First of the Few* was bloodbrother to the same composer's fugue in his *Symphony No 1*, and that Korngold's waltz theme from *The Adventures of Robin Hood* evoked Vienna Woods more than Sherwood Forest.

Peter Davall

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am City Weather 8.00
9.00am The Nurek 8.00 UK Top 10 of
1995 7.00 Live from the Minicab 10.00
11.00 Miss Cut 11.00 Nicky Campbell talks to
Meatloaf about his album *Welcome to
the Neighbourhood* 12.00-4.00am Wendy
Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy, and
at 6.15 Pauses for Thought 8.05 Walk
Up to Wogan, and at 8.15 Pause for
Football 11.00 Joanna Lumley 1.00pm
The Comedy Show 1.30pm Debbie
Hattersley, MP 2.00 Debbie Thrower
2.30 Ed Stewart 4.00 Radio 2 5.00 Radio
Today 7.00 Bert Lahr 8.00 Jump
Jive and Joke 9.00 For Your Eyes Only
10.00 Enhanced Evenings 10.30 The
Jameson 12.00am Digby Fairweather
1.00 Adrian Fearnhead 3.00 Steve
McLean

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.35
Magazine, and at 10.00 Euronews,
11.00 News, and 11.45 Daybreak 12.00
Update 11.35 Promotions and Previews
12.00 Midday 1.00 2.05 Sport 2.05
Football 3.00 with Ian Payne, Football
Manchester City v West Ham, Liverpool
v Nottingham, Leeds v Blackburn, racing
from Cheltenham, rugby league and
Middlesbrough, sports, Report 3.00
Monday, Metro, Midweek 4.00 Avon
Villa, Spur, 5.00 Manchester United 10.05
Sport in Inner Cities 11.00 Night Extra
11.35 Spaced Out 12.05am The Other
Side of Midnight 2.05 All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Best of Bites 7.00 Mc
Dee/Jimmy Gould 10.00 Best of King
12.00 Nancy Roberts 3.00 Best of Boyd
12.00 Best of Raeburn 3.00 Mike Read's
Pop Quiz 7.00 Sean Bolger 10.00 Gary
Jacobs 10.00-6.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am *Russ' n' Jono* 9.00 Richard
Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm
Nicky Barnes 7.30 Paul Coyne 10.00
Jacobs 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Rachmaninov (O
Rachmaninov, 1st mvt, 'Baba Yaga',
Bless the Lord, My soul;
Vesper); Strauss (Aus
Italian); Smetana (Piano Trio in
C, *Lovisa*); Saint-Saëns
(Three Rhapsodies on Breton
Songs, Op

road to gallows

THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 1 1996

TELEVISION 35

Catherine fixed it only too well for Hardy

A questionable benefit of last night's screen version of Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native* (BBC2) was that it brought to mind an excellent cartoon one saw, Entitled "The Infinite Variety of Cat Expressions" this cartoon depicted around 20 cat-faces, with descriptions such as "About to pounce", "Eating", "Tired", "Angry", "Happy". The joke was that the faces were identical — save for "Asleep", of course, in which the eyes were tightly closed.

What can this have to do with a classy Screen Two presentation of a great English classic on New Year's Eve? Well, anyone who watched the lovely Catherine Zeta Jones last night in the unlikely role of Eustacia Vye will charitably agree that facial consistency was by far her strongest suit. Angry, happy, tired, or about to pounce, Eustacia sustained that fixed china face quite brilliantly. Even when

floating dead (dead!) on a racing stream, Miss Jones tilted that head and those lips to the same lovely angle, yet there was something subtly different. Oh yes! Just like the cat aforementioned, she cleverly closed her eyes.

It was a strange creature, this *Return of the Native*. It was directed by Jack Gold, and produced (I believe) by Hallmark Cards, who once gave us the Emmy-winning western *Love's Own Dove*. But the casting was perverse, the landscape too grand, the adaptation banal, the indoor lighting too bright, the social statu and snow-white neck-cloths of the principals more than a bit of a surprise. The biggest mistake was to tell it as Eustacia's story with everyone else incidental, when the key to Hardy is that each character selfishly pursues its own destiny — despite impinging tragically on someone else's, of course, in which the eyes were tightly closed.

In short, most things contrived

to remove the potential for tragedy. Thus, Mrs Yeobright's exhausting, fatal trek across Egdon Heath was more a short stroll that went wrong; the multiple plunge in the last five minutes was pure comedy; and the most famous scene in the book — Digory Venn and Damon Wilde dicing on the heath at midnight by the light of glow-worms — was excised altogether. In his biography of Hardy, Martin Seymour-Smith calls this "one of the most stupendous, and best loved, scenes in English fiction." Less Eustacia, and more glow-worms next time, please.

On the plus side of *The Return of the Native*, it was pretty easy to follow, which is more than may be said for some other literary star offerings this weekend. The Robert Graves Bookmark on Saturday night (BBC2) was a curiously disjointed story, in which the viewer was left

to guess half the time what the hell was going on. "What the hell is going on?" I sometimes asked the cats, but alas, they were practising "Inscrutable" at the time. (Or was it "Hiding from Wolves"? Gosh, it's so hard to tell.)

Anyway, from the title onwards — Graves — the programme somehow expected us to know the main thrust already. For example, the section on Graves's "Muses"

real-life women to write poems for) started with an American woman talking about the honour of being "selected", but for what? This was a documentary which required an occasional narrator to clarify the order of things. Graves was seen to leave Majorca in 1936, but not to return. His famous consort Laura Riding was described by her biographer as a sexually frank person who suggested "Let's get this all out on the table". Out on the table would have been a good place to start with this story, too.

Meanwhile, the new children's classic drama *Black Hearts in Battersea* (BBC1) really needed a double-episode to get started. The viewer ought to be made aware, for example, that this is made-up historical, not real history — otherwise the references to Jacobites alongside mid-19th-century dress are a bit confusing. "To the cause!" people keep saying, and you don't know what they mean.

But the atmosphere is well done, and the urchin boy Simon (William Mannerling) has all the girly good looks of an Oliver Twist.

I complained before Christmas about the scheduling of the left-over Christmas specials, but it was a stroke of genius to leave the spoof Alan Partridge's *Knowing Me, Knowing You* (BBC2) to Friday December 29, because this is precisely where such a terrible, terrible show would realistically end up. Set in a replica of Partridge's ranch-style Norwich home (don't come round and burgle the real one, ho, ho), *Knowing Me, Knowing You* was a disastrous house party for a few close friends: bell-ringers and choirboys, a BBC executive, a lewd transvestite chef, a giant cracker containing a dialysis machine, and busty women in Santa mini-skirts. Only Patrick Moore playing the xylophone was missing.

As usual with the off-colour Partridge (Steve Coogan), the show's real interest was the rapid, gleeful and terrible humiliation of the jumped-up host *to the point of breakdown, if possible*. "Please tell me I've got a second series, boss!" Partridge joshed with the BBC exec, unforgettably. A Christian bell-ringer objected to pornography on television. "What's wrong with masturbation?" asked Partridge. "I don't like it," he said. "Well, don't do it," he snapped back. Meanwhile Partridge used every opportunity to plug Rover cars and Bassetts biscuits, and the viewers held their breath.

What would be the final bombshell here? A fire in the studio? An aborted big number? Well, yes, of course, but that wasn't all. No. Partridge hitting his boss twice in the face with his fist encased in uncooked poultry — few among us, I believe, will have seen that one coming. Happy New Year.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

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WORLD SERVICE

BBC1

7.00am Classical Music Animations. Tchaikovsky's music accompanies *The Sleeping Beauty* (3800352) 7.25 Favourite Songs with the voice of Roger Daltrey (3851159) 7.30 Joshua Jones (1808204)

8.00 Playdays (8551739) 8.20 Joe 90 (8537159) 8.45 Peter Pan and the Pirates (9182285) 8.50 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (7659222) 9.30 Stone Protectors (5426988) 9.55 Blue Peter (r) (5434807)

10.25 FILM: *The Princess and the Goblin* (1991). Animation (s) (6273468)

11.45 FILM: *Bugey Malone* (1976) starring Scott Baio and Jodie Foster. Musical spoof of old gangster movies in which a cast made up entirely of children sings and dances its way around Prohibition-era sets, film whipped cream from toy guns. Directed by Alan Parker (6282517)

1.15 News and weather (73742710) 1.25 Neighbours (5761534) 1.45 EastEnders (r). (Cestex) (4950130)

2.40 FILM: *Suburban Commando* (1991). Comedy starring Hulk Hogan, directed by Burt Kennedy (1169588)



Julie Walters in an unconventional role (4.05pm)

4.05 FILM: *Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood*. (Cestex) (s) (5994242)

4.50 Final Score (9452642)

5.15 News, regional news and weather (4892178)

5.30 Neighbours (r). (Cestex) (4945336)

5.55 FILM: *Never Say Never Again* (1983). Tongue-in-cheek James Bond adventure starring Sean Connery, directed by Irvin Kershner (58604517)

8.00 EastEnders. Pet tries to mend fences with Roy but Ricky introduces a big problem; Phil sees a ghost from the past; and Robbie tries his hand at fishing. (Cestex) (5959)

8.30 **NEW** *Goodnight Sweetheart*. Third series of the time-travel sitcom starring Nicholas Lyndhurst, Davina Kriyan and Michelle Holmes. (Cestex) (s) (9246)

9.00 FILM: *The Peacock Spring*. (Cestex) (s) (6757739)

10.25 News, regional news and weather (357913)

10.45 Match of the Day. Tony Gubba, Trevor Brooking and Gary Lineker introduce highlights of today's top Premiership games, including Liverpool v Nottingham Forest; Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United; and Middlesbrough's home clash with Aston Villa (5262275)

11.35 The Rolling Stones: *Voodoo Lounge* Live. The Stones, recorded in Miami during their 1995 world tour without Bill Wyman (208055)

1.10am FILM: *Carry On Doctor* (1969). Part of the Carry On Christmas season, starring Geraldine Howard, Kenneth Williams, Jim Dale, Barbara Windsor, Sidney James and Charles Hawtrey. Yet another innuendo-laden adventure, this time with a medical feel and particularly rich in the interplay between snooty surgeon Williams and the staff. Directed by Gerald Thomas (4043918)

2.40 Weather (7651260)

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iff Grana



■ FILM
From a sublime small-scale black and white masterpiece like *Brief Encounter*...



■ FILM
... to the ridiculous dross of a movie like *Judge Dredd*. British cinema celebrates its centenary

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ THEATRE
Stanislavski, Artaud and Bertolt Brecht all have a voice in Peter Brook's treatment of *Hamlet*



■ TOMORROW
Hollywood actor Morgan Freeman on why he jumped at the chance to star in the gruesome new film, *Seven*

God save our gracious screen

British film enters its second century under-achieving, under fire — and under orders from Geoff Brown not to succumb to dross

Just when you were getting thoroughly tired of hearing about cinema's centenary, the business starts all over again. The bulk of the world may have picked 1995 as the year for all the hoopla, but Britain has chosen 1996, because it was only during 1896 that cinema emerged in this country as a regular public attraction.

On February 21 of that year, a selection of the Lumière brothers' films appeared at the Regent Street Polytechnic. The following month the show transferred to the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square, a building long since swallowed up by the glitz cinema currently showing *The American President*, *Apollo 13* and *Babe* (none of them, predictably, a British film).

Compared to the celebrations organised by the French, the British centenary manifestations, co-ordinated either by the British Film Institute or the industry-led body Cinema 100, are particularly low on panache and patriotic glee. You could not move in Paris last year for exhibitions and film series trumpeting French cinema and its proud pioneers. But here, the milestones of Britain's own early heroes like Birt Acres and Robert Paul have passed by almost unnoticed; and the promised programme of touring shows featuring live actors and cinema clips, education packs for school children and a Museum of London exhibition about the city are reflected in films as scarcely designed to keep the flag flying merrily.

The French, of course, could bang their drum loudly because cultural bodies have been securely backed by government funds. The French Government sees that French films of the past, present and future matter, as a source of both revenue and national pride. Our own Government's attitude to cinema and the film industry varies month by month from token appreciation to obstinate lack of interest.

Back in October, industry spokesmen were all smiles after the news that lottery funds would be channelled each year through the Arts Council into the production of several films budgeted at about £5 million each. This, the argument went, would allow young directors to stay in Britain for their second or third films, rather than dash off at the first opportunity to look muscles with Sylvester Stallone.

November, however, ended with cries of outrage over the Government's penny-pinching pull-out from Eurimages, the EC fund that had supported *Land and Freedom*, *The Young Poisoner's Handbook* and more than 50 other co-productions since Britain joined the scheme in 1993. The Irish Film Board's chief executive Rod Stoneman vented his fury in the trade paper, *Screen International*: "This is an action of unparalleled meanness and madness. It not only damages the



Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard in *Brief Encounter*, "a small-scale masterpiece which continues to speak to audiences worldwide"

prospects of UK producers but also English-language cinema in Europe as a whole."

But in some ways British cinema has always been in a parlous state, no matter what meanness, madness, indifference or encouragement has been displayed by the government in power. François Truffaut famously suggested that there was "a certain incompatibility between the terms 'cinema' and 'Britain'". He spoke sweepingly and rudely, but enough uncomfortable truth remains to give one pause for thought, especially in the light of our timid centenary celebrations.

British cinema history began brightly enough. We had the inventors. In the early years we developed trick processes, and led the world in training the camera on the world around us. Britain fell back when films grew longer and began telling complex stories. American films had the dynamic thrust ours just had pretty scenery and blocks of sheep.

By the late 1920s young sparks like Hitchcock and Asquith were showing a new degree of visual sophistication. But such gains were lost with the coming of sound, which allowed our literary and theatrical traditions to dominate, and strengthened the power American movies exerted over audiences. Why bother about Gracie Fields when you could dance away the night with Fred Astaire?

From the 1930s on British films became wedded to actors and words. Sometimes the marriage was happy,

as with Olivier's *Henry V* or, on a different level, the music-hall antics of a Will Hay or George Formby. But there has been too much prose, too little poetry, too little to excite the visual eye or prick the heart; and the British director who thinks fluently in images — such as Powell, Mackenridge, Reed, Lean, Greene, way or Jarman — remains very much the exception.

Britain's younger school of direc-

make action fantasies based on comic strips or video games. If their fortunes hold up, they may never have to look for a pay packet or create a recognisable human being again.

Yet British cinema, flaws acknowledged, is still worth celebrating and certainly worth fighting for. When our industry is buoyed by confidence and in touch with ordinary people's emotions we can make a small-scale masterpiece like *Brief Encounter*, a film which, for all its 1940s middle-class trappings, continues to speak to audiences worldwide.

But if the industry loses its national identity and simply services American projects, the future will only bring dross like *Judge Dredd*, the comic-strip nightmare shot by Danny Cannon at Shepperton.

Even a great talent like Hitchcock loses individuality when he moves to Hollywood, away from his roots. Born to a north London greengrocer, he was able to make thrillers alive with quirky observations of urban life. *Sabotage*, made in 1936, glories in the atmosphere of London street markets, suburban cinemas, the Lord Mayor's Show, and an Islington bird shop (where a bomb-maker roosts). An American film like *North by Northwest* has a smoother technical surface than the thrillers of the 1930s, but Hitchcock picks the most obvious locations, like the United Nations and the carved worthies of Mount Rushmore. In Britain he was an insider; in America he remained a tourist.

So during this centenary year, with the industry continuing to bemoan and blear, usually about the need for tax incentives, we should clearly keep in mind what kind of cinema we really want to promote. With Ridley and Tony Scott now running Shepperton Studios and the new facility at Leavesden Aerodrome, a possible site of future films from Spielberg and George Lucas, American movies featuring British expertise will continue to be made. They are good for employment, but they hardly constitute an indigenous film industry; and they must be balanced by medium-budget movies with a British stamp.

Sadly, art-house ventures of the Jarman or Greenaway kind seem to be a dying breed at the moment, unless they happen to be written by Jane Austen. But *Shallow Grave*, the one British film of 1995 to earn a place in the box-office Top 20 tabulated by *Screen International* (it was No 18), shows that audiences will go to see local product other than *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Their numbers might increase further if exhibitors and distributors gave British films greater exposure.

One thing is clear: there is no room anywhere for fodder, for cramped TV-style productions or botched little comedy thrillers like *The Steal*, the worst British film to crawl into the light last year. If we want to celebrate 100 more years of cinema — British cinema — in 2096, we must husband our resources very carefully.

In some ways British cinema has always been in a parlous state

tors certainly take Truffaut's line. Twentysomethings such as Danny Cannon and Paul Anderson were born into the era of *Star Wars*. Not for them any routine homage to British documentary, Ealing comedy, kitchen sink realism or the other accepted highlights of our film culture. Cinema to them means Hollywood, popcorn and slam-bang action; and after one feature each, grafting American excitement onto the British urban scene, they have both run to Hollywood's arms to

Peter Brook's *Hamlet* draws upon some of the century's greatest dramatic theorists, Andy Lavender reports

What noble minds are here o'erhauled

In a typical mixture of seriousness and panache, Peter Brook's latest project is one of his most ambitious. *Qui Est Là* is Brook's engagement with Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. It is an immediately enticing venture for, as Brook suggests, when the actors from his Paris-based Centre International de Créations Théâtrales turn to the best known play in the world, "this makes all sorts of immediate questions of theatre". In addressing them he has called upon some esteemed thinkers: the show is filtered through the writings of six major figures in world drama.

"We actually present a sort of mosaic," Brook says, "which is a work on fragments of *Hamlet* which is constantly modified by voices coming from the past." Five of these belong to directors and theorists from the first half of the century. There are the Russians Stanislavski and Meyerhold, the former the founder of naturalistic acting, whose system is still the basis of most actor training today; the latter a radical director who fell victim to Stalin's purges.

"Meyerhold is not only the greatest genius in the theatre," Brook says, "but the one authentic martyr in the Socratic sense, in that he was destroyed by his society because he questioned it too deeply."

There is the French writer and director Antonin Artaud, whose calls for a "primal" theatre have stirred many hearts. There is Bertolt Brecht, who bestrides the 20th century as its most provocative playwright, director and theorist. And there is the English director and designer Edward Gordon Craig, Brook's estimation "perhaps the most neglected of all the great figures in the theatre".

These, then, are the shadows at Brook's elbow, joined by a still dusty luminary. In acknowledging the influence of oriental theatre on each of his chosen directors, Brook has gone back to the first written source, a book called *The Secret of Noh* by the Noh master Zeami. The result is nothing less than an exploration of meaning and technique in the theatre.

Qui Est Là opened recently

at the Bouffes du Nord, Brook's magnificently dilapidated Parisian theatre. On a bare wooden platform, with only a few simple black chairs, the seven actors move seamlessly between scenes from the play and a discussion of how they might best be presented.

The show's title comes from the first line of Shakespeare's text. Brook gives it to David Bennent, who plays Horatio and enjoys a moment of theatrical fun. He bounds onto the stage, looks breezily about and demands, "Who is there?" Yoshi Oida shakes his head in amused disapproval. Bennent enters again, this time with a somersault more spectacularly wrong. The third time, to hollow knocks provided by Mahmoud Tabrizi-Zadeh, the lone musician, Bennent slowly turns, steps onto the platform, edges under an imaginary rampart and quietly asks his question: "Who is there?"

The show thrives on these glimpses, as if it constantly catches the play on the run. Its fragments are spliced with discourses on the nature of passion, on the difference be-



tween the abstract and the concrete, and on similarly engaging matters, which, in a two-hour production, leave somewhat less room for the play itself. "In rehearsal and privately one uses very severe words in relation to Shakespeare," Brook says. "On the one hand, one admires him

more than any other author, and on the other, one doesn't hesitate to say, 'This is unbelievably boring, let's cut it'."

True to his word, Brook has excised the entire last act of *Hamlet*, arguing that some of the most vital themes of the play are expressed in the graveyard scene which pre-

cedes it. In his version, a notably serene Ophelia delivers her "mad" speeches during this section. The whole dénouement is calm, focused and original.

There are difficulties for English spectators. If you do not speak French, you will not follow the discussions about theatrical possibilities, for this is a text-heavy show. Thankfully, Brook is contemplating an English production.

Once or twice, too, when the actors gather round to share words of wisdom, the reverence appropriate to a masterclass is nearly cloying. And is there a further danger — that the show raids the work of hugely different practitioners to promote the idea of a "timeless" theatre?

"For years, everything I have done has been to strip away from any work any forms of cultural association," Brook says. "So when you say, 'Isn't there a danger?', I say, 'Isn't there a virtue'?"

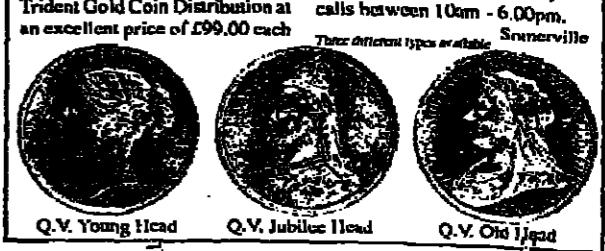
The quest, he suggests, is paramount. "What has made *Hamlet* great is above all the dramatising of an intense and anguished questioning. This passionate questioning is what really connects people as different as Craig, Artaud, Brecht, Meyerhold and Hamlet, and makes bedfellows of them all."

Qui Est Là is at the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, Paris (033 1 46 07 52) until March 23

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□ Scientists make glueball theory stick □ Study holds out prospect of snake-poison antidote □ Nasa goes fishing in space with superfine net

PHYSICISTS are hailing in on yet another of the fundamental particles of matter, thanks to a heroic piece of computation by three scientists from IBM. In what may well be the largest single calculation ever performed by a computer, they have worked out the properties to be expected of objects known as "glueballs".

As their name implies, glueballs are the things that stick other particles together. The ruling theory of matter — known as the Standard Model — says that everything consists of quarks, assembled in various ways to make the more familiar protons and neutrons. But the Standard Model does not give any indication of what it is that holds the quarks together. That comes from a later theory, called quantum chromodynamics or QCD, which proposes the existence of gluons, particles that carry the strong nuclear forces to stick the quarks together.

The trouble has been that nobody has ever managed to see a gluon. Or maybe they have, without quite realising it. For the IBM calculation shows that the glueball, which consists of a clump of gluons, may be one and the same as the mysterious theta particle, picked up more than ten

Big sum adds up to success



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

years ago in an experiment at the Stanford Linear Accelerator in California. Like all scientific theories, QCD makes predictions about how the world ought to behave. But the equations are so complex that they are impossible to solve without making simplifications, and even then they take a very long time on powerful computers. In a recent issue of *Physical Review Letters*, the three IBM physicists — Don Weingarten, James Sexton, and Alessandro Vaccarino — present the results of a calculation that required 400 million billion operations, and took more than two years on a computer using almost 566 chips connected together in parallel so that they could all compute at once, rather than one after the other. In fact, Weingarten used only 448 of them, keeping the rest in reserve in case some chips cracked during the marathon calculation.

Back in 1993, the same team had predicted that the lightest possible glueball would be detected at an energy of 1,740 million electron volts, plus or minus 70. The latest calculations provide an estimate of the rate at which such a particle ought to decay into quarks and anti-quarks.

Both the mass and the decay characteristics fit the theta particle observed in 1991. That appeared briefly after the decay of a particle

made up of a quark and antiquark, which annihilate each other, leaving behind the lingering image of the gluons that held them together, rather like the grin on the face of the Cheshire Cat.

Dr Weingarten is convinced, though other scientists remain more sceptical. The British physicist Frank Close, head of theoretical physics at the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory, has his own candidate. Guided by a prediction by a seven-university team called UK QCD, he went looking for a particle with a mass of about 1,550 MeV.

He and Swiss physicist Claude Amsler found it in an experiment that has been running at the low-energy antiproton ring at the European Particle Physics Laboratory in Geneva for the past five years. Among the decay products detected was one with a mass of 1,500 MeV. So is this, rather than the Stanford particle, the true glueball?

Maybe, thinks Frank Close. Possibly, the two could be the same glueball in different guises. "It's sensible," he says, "to start taking seriously that glueballs really do exist." To prove it will need even more precise calculations, using better methods, and yet more experimental data.

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Dissecting the cobra's venom



ISRAELI scientists have unravelled the three-dimensional geometry that lies behind the cobra's deadly venom. The work, supported by the United States Army Medical and Development Command, could help in the production of new antidotes for snake venom, or for nerve gases that work in a similar way.

Snake venom kills by interfering with a key enzyme, acetylcholinesterase (AChE). The job of the enzyme is to break down the chemical acetylcholine, which carries messages from nerves to muscles. If the signalling chemical is not broken down, it continuously sends the same message, causing muscles to contract and eventually killing the victim.

A team from the Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, made crystals of a complex formed by AChE and a toxin called fasciculin, contained in the venom of the green mamba, a relative of the cobra.

From previous work the team

knew that the enzyme has a deep, narrow chasm in its three-dimensional structure. It is within this chasm that the acetylcholine is broken down. They also knew that fasciculin looks rather like a hand with three fingers sticking out.

They found by analysing the complex that the "middle finger" of the toxin wedges itself straight into the enzyme's chasm, preventing the acetylcholine from getting in.

This is possible because electrical charges on the enzyme and the toxin nudge the approaching toxin into the right position before contact is made.

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which the solar system was made. The mission should collect thousands of dust particles and paralyze them down to the deserts of Utah for a mere \$200 million, which planetary scientists regard as bargain basement. It is now 23 years since the last samples of extra-terrestrial material were recovered by Apollo 17 astronauts, but that project cost \$25 billion.

Gathering fragments of a comet for \$200 million is "nearly miraculous", says the principal investigator, Donald Brownlee, of the University of Washington.

Not the least of the problems is slowing the particles to a halt without damaging them, as they will be moving through space at a speed of 12,000 miles an hour. The material to do it is an aerogel, a substance rather like expanded polystyrene but more so.

In an aerogel, 99.9 per cent of the volume is air, separated by a three-dimensional network of silica. Aerogels are nature's soufflés, nearly as light as air but surprisingly strong. Tiny particles from the comet's tail colliding with the aerogel will gently bury themselves in it and slow down so imperceptibly that they will be undamaged. On the ground, the astronomers will extract and examine the primordial matter.



THE US space agency Nasa is to go fishing for star-dust, using as a net the lightest-known solid material. Early next century a satellite called Stardust will swoop past comet Wild-2, missing its icy core by 60 miles or so, to scoop up dust particles that make up the comet's tail. This is the very stuff of



Can scientists shake off their mad media image?

American physicists are campaigning to change the way they are portrayed on screen, but Geoff Brown believes the absent-minded professor is here to stay

Robert Park, a professor at the University of Maryland, has not been the same since he saw a commercial for a slimming aid on American television last autumn. It was not the product itself that disturbed him: as a specialist in condensed matter, some might say he is in the dieting business himself. No, it was the man in the corner, a small, twitching scientist with bad skin who sits grunting in his lab and proves the butt of the advertiser's humour.

Professor Park was not laughing. For him the advertisement was the last straw. Supported by colleagues in the American Physical Society, he has let his wrath boil over in a full-scale assault on the popular image of scientists as

nurtured by movies and television. Scientists are generally portrayed as myopic, absent-minded, unkempt of hair, even crazed; and all this at a time when most social, ethnic or professional groups are wrapped in the cotton wool of political correctness.

"This is not healthy," Park argues, "nor is it a trivial concern. Never in my life have I met a scientist who looked remotely like Jerry Lewis's professor, the shambolic, buck-toothed hero of *The Nutty Professor*. And take *Jurassic Park*: it was good in that it gave children perhaps their only introduction to genetic engineering, but when the scientists in the film get the secret of life, what do they do? They build an amusement park!"

The professor is right. Of course. Though there have been a few serious attempts to treat scientists with respect, the archetype of most movie scientists remains Mary Shelley's Victor Frankenstein. Brilliant man, of course, but misguided; apt to get carried away in his obsession with creating Boris Karloff from an assortment of body parts.

Frankenstein had even madder movie contemporaries. There was Dr Moreau, created by H.G. Wells, and memorably given life by Charles Laughton in *Island of Lost Souls*. His specialty was also genetic engineering: his laboratory was an island of grotesques, half-animal, half-human. Or how about Dr Alexander Thorkel in *Dr Cyclops* might be the world's greatest biologist, but his fondness for shrinking people to the size of chickens does not suggest a candidate for the Nobel Prize.

Postwar movie scientists were largely of a different breed. They wore white coats and worked on hush-hush government assignments — though their mental stability was still questionable. Science in the 1950s was widely accepted as the new frontier, but this was also a time of fear and paranoia, and some scientists

wanted to push the boundaries too far. Men like Lee Van Cleef in *It Conquered the World*: he regarded the "it" as a close personal friend, and got chewed up for his pains by a squashed cactus from Venus.

Film after film repeated the conflict: the men with guns keen to shoot down the alien; the men with clipboards eager to learn from a superior civilisation. Science-fiction films of the Fifties also fed off the suspicion that scientists were tampering too much with nature. So many nuclear tests took place in New Mexico that the result, in *Them!*, was an army of giant ants.

Once horror and science-fiction films had established the stereotype of the mad or misguided scientist, comedies and action extravaganzas stepped in to spread it around.

Youngsters in the 1960s delighted in *The Absent-Minded Professor*, the Disney comedy featuring Fred MacMurray as the distractingly invento of "flubber" — flying rubber, that is.

Twenty five years later, a different generation rejoiced at Christopher Lloyd's crazed inventor of the time machine car in *Back to the Future*. And *Dr Cyclops* has been reborn in an innocent guise as *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*. Since Rick Moranis's scientist is a bumbling nerd, the shrinkage is now accidental.

Instead of fulminating against bad type-casting, the American Physical Society should ask themselves why serious movie characterisations of scientists have not

taken hold. A worthy scientist, all scriptwriters know, is a boring one. True, the moment of discovery might produce high drama; but how do you handle the years of research, the false trails, the midnight hours hunched over computers and test-tubes?

A few successes can be found. Peter Ustinov's *School for Secrets*, made in Britain in 1946, did its best to capture the tension of scientists battling to perfect radar. And in 1987, *Life Story*, the BBC's excellent film about cracking the DNA code, made the research process appear as exciting as a detective thriller.

Even Hollywood has made some attempt to treat science seriously. Warner Bros tried in the 1990s with popular biographical films about Louis Pasteur fighting microbes and

Dr Erlhlich fighting syphilis. A few years later at MGM, Greer Garson lent her gentle charms to the story of Madame Curie. But in the battle between science and Hollywood gloss, science invariably loses out. Scientists trying to shake hands with Martians were so much more entertaining.

The language of science is another problem. Either scriptwriters bamboozle the general audience with gibberish, or an expert is hired to coach everyone in the authentic technical terms. Film-makers want words to match the reality of their sets and special effects, with the result that half the talk in *Apollo 13* sputters over people's heads. At least Professor Park recognises the problem. "We cannot seem to free ourselves from the jargon in

which we address ourselves," he says. "Our wives have got used to it, but not the public."

What price, then, a television series about scientist Professor Leon Lederman, the Illinois Institute of Technology, is so eager to see or that he has set up a fight fund with the American Association for the Advancement of Science to help explore its possibilities? The result is *Titan*, a projected show about a research facility where scientists regularly make earth-shattering breakthroughs.

British producer Adri Malone, whose credits include *The Ascent of Man*, has been given the job of pitching the concept to the US network. The only rules, he says, a "not to tell lies about science and never to bore people. Some contradiction, surely?"

Antarctic rock holds secret of global warming

Researchers are preparing to drill beneath the sea ice for clues to the climate of the past, says Jo Andrews

Geologists in Antarctica have successfully completed trials for a drilling project about to unlock some of the most important secrets of the Earth's climate. They hope, with the help of rocks up to a hundred million years old, to make more accurate predictions about the impact of global warming.

The Cape Roberts project, which is being undertaken by six nations, including Britain, involves drilling in some of the planet's most rugged conditions on the Ross Dependency. The rocks that geologists want to sample lie offshore from the Transantarctic Mountains in the Ross Dependency. To reach them will mean drilling from the sea ice, nearly half a mile beneath the sea bed.

The drill rig, which is being built in Christchurch, New Zealand, is due to be shipped to Cape Roberts this month. Rig and platform will be about 50 high and the entire research unit will weigh more than 50 tonnes. All that has to be balanced on sea ice, in places no more than 5ft thick.

The scientists and drill crews will have to work in temperatures as low as minus 35C, and winds of up to 40 knots, while living on site for six weeks at a time, in converted shipping containers.

Geologists believe the core samples, which will cost more than \$5 million (about £3.5 million) to obtain, will yield vital information about the stability of the Antarctic ice sheet and how it changes when the climate changes. The project's science manager, Alex Pyne, of Victoria University in New Zealand, says: "We hope it will help us to predict more accurately what may happen in Antarctica when global warming occurs. Some scientists think that the Earth's average temperature may warm by two or three degrees. In Antarctica that could be as much as five to seven degrees. What happened in previous warmer times? How much of the sea ice disappeared? How much of the Antarctic ice sheet melted? And how much did sea levels rise? People don't know the answers. One way of predicting

ing is to go to rock history to find out what happened in a previous warm time." The rocks that will be studied are anything between 30 and 100 million years old and were formed before the present major ice build-up in Antarctica, when dinosaurs became extinct. Cape Roberts is the perfect site to find them because they have been pushed far closer to the surface there by the rise of the Transantarctic Mountains.

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 1 1996

Men who rule in a women's world



NICHOLAS COLERIDGE

THE 38-year-old is managing director of Conde Nast Publications, which reaches three million women a month. Three out of four of his 330-strong workforce are women; he has lost no women editors recently.

Which magazines does he control? *Vogue*, *House & Garden*, *GQ*, *Tatler*, *Vanity Fair*, *The World of Interiors*, *Brides*.

Readers? All his titles have increasing circulations.

Any vanishing women editors? Not lately. But Emma Soames left *Tatler* shortly after his arrival as editorial director of Conde Nast in 1989. About three years ago, Liz Tilberis left *Vogue* to edit *Harpers Bazaar* in the United States. Since then, they have been sticking to him like flies to ointment.

What he says about women editors: "Handle them with tact and civility like a normal person... and say thank you sometimes."

Which means? Whenever they win a major award, he sends them a stupendous bouquet of camellias and gardenias. Editors of the National Magazine Company are especially bitter about this.

Roots? His great-great-great-great-great uncle was the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. His father David used to be head of Lloyd's. Nicholas was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. His career started at the *Falmouth Packet*. He is also an author. He is always eager to remind you: "When I was a war correspondent, I spent two weeks in prison in Sri Lanka on suspicion of being a Tamil terrorist."

Does his own woman juggle her life? Indeed. Georgia (more Cherie Booth than Norma Major) spends two mornings a week helping at the *Daily Mail*. A third baby is on the way. Although she has appeared in the occasional list of Britain's top beauties, she finds time to prepare dinner for 14 at their elegant home in Notting Hill Gate. The guest list is likely to include Dominic Lawson and Charles Moore. Friends also include Conrad Black, Paula Yates, Lord Snowdon, Joan Collins, Loyd Grossman and Dominic Dunne.



Coleridge: he believes in handling editors with tact and civility... and saying thank you

What is their home like? Georgia has chosen the colour scheme — pink for the reception room, bright yellow for the sitting room and vivid green for the bookshelves.

The colours reflect the permanently sunny personality of his wife," said a dinner guest

hoping to return.

Which of his magazines is she most likely to read?

House & Garden for decorating and food tips, *Tatler* for "glamour and wit".

And least? *Brides*.

Appearance: Coleridge favours the dandy look typical of old Etonians, dressing in

waistcoats and cravats, with canary yellow socks.

What he thinks his enemies say about him: "Dangerously competitive, ambitious and glib."

What his enemies do say: "Nobody in their right mind could call Nicholas Coleridge sexy," — former woman editor.

What advertisers think of his titles: "Conde Nast have very strong products and very strong brands but the organisation tends to sit at the conservative end of magazine publishing. It has undoubtedly suffered because of that in the last few years" — Jim

Marshall, managing director of the Media Centre.

Favourite television programme: *London's Burning* and *I Got News For You*.

Aftershave: "I seldom wear it but probably something by Chanel because I love the bottle shape." Sometimes uses the samples in *GQ*.

What do his American bosses think of him? "Nicholas is an absolutely brilliant executive, doing a brilliant job. He is intelligent, brilliant" — Jonathan Newhouse, chairman of Conde Nast International.

Catchphrase: "I say."

What do the advertisers think

of the Media Centre.

Frankly, they couldn't care less as long as the readers don't follow the editors out of the exit door.

What he says about women editors: "Buying editors is like buying horses. For every day they look fantastic, they may need three days in the stable."

Does his own woman juggle her life? Not particularly.

Helen, his wife of 30 years, stayed at home to mind their daughters, Anna and Victoria, now grown up.

What's she like? Once

described as a "Norma Major type", she devotes her time to

worthy causes, such as Victim Support. She once confided that she was allergic to buttons, so all her clothes have to be wrapped and tied.

Roots? Brought up in Walthamstow, he was a Forces radio presenter on Christmas Island and a Bulwits redcoat before a career in advertising.

Favourite television programme: Friends say *Gardening World* to help with his pastime — digging the large garden of his home in Hertfordshire.

Aftershave: Aramis.

Appearance: Somewhat vertically challenged, and poss-

esses a lazy eye. Hisatorial skills have improved of late.

As one of his former editors puts it snifflily: "He went to America to be groomed; he came back knowing where to get clothes. You can train a man to look good."

What do his American bosses think of him? He is the first Briton to sit on the board of the Hearst Corporation.

Catchphrase: "Speaking not only as managing director of the National Magazine Company but also as a board director of the Hearst Corporation of New York..."

Mansfield: he says buying editors is like buying horses — they need time in the stable

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An outsider who took the hot seat

Mary Riddell discovers the homely secrets of Pat Roberts Cairns, editor of *Good Housekeeping*

It may come as a faint disappointment to *Good Housekeeping*'s loyal readers that its incoming editor did not devote her New Year's Eve to whipping up the magazine's recommended fun astrological buffet.

Instead, Pat Roberts Cairns spent a quiet evening with her husband, sharing a supermarket haggis while doubtless reflecting that the past days had been sufficiently starstruck to dispense with the festive cosmic chocolate cake (540 calories per slice).

A fortnight has passed since Roberts Cairns was summoned to the office of Terry Mansfield, the managing director of the National Magazine Company, and invited to lead his flagship title.

Terry had just come back from New York and been told by Sally O'Sullivan, the editor, that she was leaving. He wanted to act quickly and smoothly, and I said yes at once. It was very nice, and it felt very right."

So far, so undramatic. Another slot satisfactorily filled, another good woman promoted. And there we might leave it, but for the extraordinary recent events at Britain's top women's magazine publishers.

The heights to which Roberts Cairns has climbed are, these days, as easily deserted as K2 in a whiteout. In the past 18 months more than half the company's most senior editors have gazed briefly into the abyss and jumped.

The reasons varied, but at least two — Marcelle D'Argy, *Stiletto*, of *Cosmopolitan*, and Linda Kelsey, of *SHE* — exited in the manner of a brace of power-suited lemmings.

At first glance, Roberts Cairns appears an outsider to this world of soured glamour. She does not own a power suit, preferring a geography-mis-

tered knitted and gilt-buttoned two-piece. Her recreations, were they to be listed in *Who's Who*, would include (she is quite serious about this) tidyng the sock drawer.

"I am incredibly mean — should I be confiding this to you? I have cupboards of really bad buys and no fashion classics. Plus, I have ghastly hair — My Little Pony hair, like spun nylon. Mind you, I don't deserve to have any at all after all that Sixties bleach."

If peroxide failed to render her hairless, it is unlikely that stress will prevail. Roberts Cairns is quite simply, she reader. She is 48, sensible, nice, an avid homemaker of the kind who always Hooveres under the sofa. On workload, think buffalo.

Childless, she got married two years ago, to a Sussex GP with three grown-up children. They met at a drinks party: "He was the first man I met who I wanted to marry."

She spends Monday to Friday at her small London flat, where she rises at 6am, and puts in a 12-hour day at the office before a work-related evening function and a Marks and Spencer microwave frozen dinner for one.

It is, surely, just this sort of pressure which vanquished her powerful colleagues? This sort of toil which reduced Linda Kelsey from the serene prophet of jugged lives to anodyne-riven defeat?

"I can't speak for Linda, but to be honest I feel it's up to the individuals. If you feel you've taken on too much, it's the right thing to step back."

"It's all a question of getting things in proportion. A lot of

journalists complain about pressure because they only meet people who do the same job, and it doesn't make for much of a let-up. Also, I have a lot of support from the team, and from Terry Mansfield, who knows and loves this."

Here, you may think, we have the ingredients for the sort of poisoned chalice unlikely to grace the tried-and-tested recipe pages of *Good Housekeeping*.

Mansfield has acquired a reputation for being avuncular when things go well, acid when they do not. The observer might think that editing a title for him is a bit like being married to Henry VIII — fine while it lasts. This, for Roberts Cairns, is the honeymoon, but she is quite genuine in her defence.

"They would probably ask advice on something shareable, like a circulation problem, but not on something so personal. These are not teen-age titles."

"But no, the shutters don't come down. Francine, I'll defend her runs a very good com-

pany. In order to do that, you've got to be solid. But that's different to tough." And the dominant thral is he said to exert? These stories are a joke to us — quite amazing."

But not to Marcelle D'Argy Smith, who — in her resignation press release — compared her time with Mansfield to a Wagner opera: "Wonderful moments and some terrible half hours."

"I thought that was a brilliant quote from Marcelle, but taken out of the context in which she said it," says Roberts Cairns, and the constant, jolly laugh grows thinner. And what, in fairness, can you expect? She is new, she is fated, and life for her is sweeter, not to mention more effortless, than a GH ice-cream bombe (preparation time one hour 30 minutes).

But the truth lies deeper. In another era, she would have invested in a black-leaded stove if black-leaded was called for. In this one, her combination of ordinariness, hard work and undoubted professionalism may see her through where other paragons faltered.

It is, however, clear that those editors who retreated to the school run, Harvey Nichols and coffee with their girlfriends (the latter an excuse that the domesticated Roberts Cairns finds baffling) did not spend the last fraught office days weeping into a glass of Chardonnay with high-level colleagues.

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• Cordless operation

Matthew Parris



To wash or not to wash? Greasy hair could become, like the red Aids ribbon, a fashion item

I have just washed my hair. The news might seem unworthy of note were it not for two surrounding circumstances, both unusual. First, my whole head was covered in soot. Second, I gave up washing my hair in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1994 on my birthday, August 7.

Or, to be less sensational and more precise, I gave up washing hair with shampoo, detergent or soap. The soot-induced relapse is to be both the first and the last in 1996.

This story is about hair, not soot, so let us get the soot out of the way. In the Pyrenees, where my parents live and where my Christmas holiday has been spent, we live in an isolated house with an oil-fired boiler. This extinguished itself at the end of 1995, choked by carbon. It had been wrongly adjusted. A morning was spent, with my father, removing sacksful of diesel soot: a fine, greasy powder which gets into your lungs, mouth, eyes, and most of all, your hair. There was nothing for it but shampoo.

Today, though, my voluntary economic sanctions

Dogs, cats and monkeys do not have greasy fur, although they never shampoo

The ingredients are listed: "Water, sodium lauryl sulphate, cocamidopropyl betaine, glycol distearate, cocamide MEA, disodium lauryl sulphosuccinate, cocamidopropyl betaine, fragrance, hydroxypropyl guar hydroxypropyltrimonium chloride, citric acid, methylbromo glutaronitrile, phenoxethanol."

Golly, I wonder what the cost might be, having put all that down our drains along with tens of thousands of gallons of grease, of getting it all out again, to provide the clean water with which to wash our hair, again?

My option — to stop shampooing — has costs too, which I must not conceal. Your hair never gets that almost unnatural lustre again immediately after shampooing (though you can use conditioner alone). And, though the more you wash with water the less dandruff you have, you never completely eliminate it as you can with anti-dandruff shampoos (how, chemically, they do this, one prefers not to contemplate).

And there is that initial barrier: the first few weeks of greasy hair. But perhaps if we all gave up shampooing for Rwanda the greasy hair, like the Aids ribbon, could become a fashion item? Stranger things have happened. My campaign against shampoo goes on. *La lucha, not to say la lucha, continua.*

What is different about the defec-

WHILE MOST of us brush our teeth this morning to the plink plink fizz of New Year's Day, Lord Archer, the *piece-mealed* friend of Conservative prime ministers, will be brooding on the millennium.

He is planning his most spectacular party yet to see in 2000 with his formula of Krug (stocks are already secured) and shepherd's

pie. "Krug have promised me that this champagne and shepherd's pie will be the most memorable," he says.

His thoughts are on the guest list, being honed in consultation with Old Archer's Almanack.

"John Major will be at the start of his fourth administration as Prime Minister; the Viscount Heseltine will be leader of the Lords," he says. "Tony Blair will be chairman of the BBC and Ken Livingstone Leader of the Opposition."

There will be a brace of Euro-Commissioners on his list: Sir William Cash and Sir John Patten; John Redwood, Secretary of State for Scotland, may show up; and the jolly-jumpered Gyles Brandreth will pop in as Secretary of State for National Heritage.

With Michael Portillo, the Leader of the House; Peter Lilley, the Chancellor; and William Hague, the Home Secretary, in attendance, Archer believes the party will go with a swing. He will be steering political opinion from a different perspective: "I shall have bought *The Times* to make sure that at least one newspaper will be supporting the Government."



"He's finding it tough — his resolution was party loyalty"

Asia has a solution to Labour's future policy problems which will satisfy even the middle class

Blair could make it the year of the tiger

Repeated tactical reverses are always a sign of the failure of strategy. When he came to office, John Major did have a strategy, in contrast to Margaret Thatcher's caution, his foreign policy was based on a close friendship with Germany and his economic policy on membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism. He signed the Treaty of Maastricht and unexpectedly won the general election of 1992. For a time his strategy looked successful, and it was certainly not stupid; however, it broke down in the autumn of 1992, when Germany decided not to support the pound. John Major's trouble was that he wanted the German alliance much more than Helmut Kohl wanted a British one.

John Major found it impossible to replace his original strategy after it broke down. The Government's European policy became incoherent. The benefits of leaving the ERM won him no political credit because he had taken the pound into the ERM and had tried desperately to keep it there. He has by now lost the confidence of both the pro-Europeans and of the Euro-sceptics.

A deadlock Cabinet has been unable to agree on any new strategy. That has resulted in the recurrence of tactical defeats of which Emma Nicholson's transfer to the Liberal Democrats is only the most recent. There is, however, an alternative strategy which could have been much more popular: it seems likely to become the strategy on which the Conservative Party will best be able to unite in Opposition.

The new strategy is based on that of the Asian tiger. The aim would be to make Britain an off-shore European tiger with high savings, high growth, high levels of employment, low public expenditure, low taxes and low costs. Public expenditure should be brought down from its present

level of more than 40 per cent of GDP to 30 per cent, a target advocated both by Lord Skidelsky and by Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong.

This cannot be achieved without radical reform of the welfare state, which is in any case necessary on demographic and financial grounds. The aim would also be to raise the level of savings from below 20 per cent to around 30 per cent of GDP.

One of the worst failures of the postwar welfare and tax structures has been the inadequate level of British savings since 1945. "10 per cent less tax, 10 per cent more savings" — that would be the Asian tiger prescription. This Asian strategy goes with the rejection of Euro federalism which has already been made explicit by Malcolm Rifkind and John Redwood. Germany, France, Italy and Spain all suffer from excessive welfare costs and taxation, to an even greater degree than Britain. The British tigers are not anti-European but they detest the continuing European decline, and fear that a single currency would lock Britain into further decades of Eurosclerosis.

Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind and John Redwood are three formidable Conservative leaders for the future.

Even if the Labour Party wins the next election, which is very likely to be this year, these three highly intelligent politicians should be able to put together a coherent and attractive British tiger policy in

Opposition. They compare favourably with anyone in Tony Blair's Shadow Cabinet except Blair himself.

Such a Conservative strategy in the next Parliament would test the incoherencies of the Labour strategy on Europe, on taxation and on the economy. Blair is far from having solved all his own strategic problems.

In Tokyo on Friday, after a holiday in the healthily entrepreneurial climate of Australia — his second visit in six months — Tony Blair is expected to discuss the issues of

William Rees-Mogg

globalisation and to commit new Labour to an open trade policy. He recognises that there are no more jobs for life, and that new technology has created huge insecurity, but is opposed to the protectionist or isolationist reaction. He recognises that there can be no going back to bureaucratic controls and that national tax rates have to be internationally competitive. The danger of over-reaction to the global competition in new technology does indeed exist both on the Left and on the Right.

On Saturday, Blair will arrive in Singapore. He has already shown an

interest in the Asian strategy, as has Frank Field. Last November, Blair made a speech in which he argued that it was "investment and savings that have been the motor for economic development in Asia". He went on to commit new Labour to "reform of welfare". He still seems to suffer from the illusion that high taxation does not crowd out savings.

One sentence in his speech seemed particularly significant: "In Singapore, government spends 18 per cent of GDP, but for people under 55, employees and employers each face a compulsory savings rate of 20 per cent". The European welfare state provides its benefits through taxation and transfer, often between people of equal wealth, without funding the future expenditure at the cost of current savings. The Singapore welfare model builds up individual savings accounts which the individual can invest and can use for specified welfare purposes, including education, medical care and retirement. These savings become freely available at the age of 55, on retirement, disablement, or death. They can be passed on to the next generation.

If Britain had been operating a system like that of the Singapore Central Provident Fund since 1955, our savings would probably have compounded at a rate more than 50 per cent higher than we actually achieved. It would be interesting to have a proper statistical calculation

of the likely outcome. Even a back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that the average family would have additional savings in six figures, and that the additional national capital might be a couple of trillion pounds. What is certain is that we should be much richer if we had paid for welfare not out of taxation but out of real savings and investment.

The new Labour Government will have to decide whether to move from the "tax and spend" system to "save and invest". Such a transfer would take the State out of a large part of welfare expenditure; the switch would, in turn, reduce the State's share of GDP to around the 30 per cent level, while adding 10 per cent to the level of savings. For Tony Blair, the attractions are obvious: the British CPF would raise the sustainable rate of growth of the UK economy, reduce unemployment, give room both to high-priority government expenditure and to reducing taxes, and would make the new Labour Party the darling of the middle class. No single policy could make a Labour victory in the election after next more likely.

There are counter-arguments. Old Labour might regard a Central Provident Fund as privatising the welfare state, which in one sense it would be. Europe might not like Britain adopting so fundamental a tiger policy, though if it succeeded it would strengthen Britain's European position. Some purists might regard the CPF as an interference in free markets; the Treasury might think it took away what ought to be taxed. These objections do not seem overwhelming. Tony Blair is a clever and modern man. He will therefore find Singapore and the CPF a great temptation. After all, the CPF helped Lee Kuan Yew to remain Prime Minister for 29 years, which would take Tony Blair through to 2025, when he will still be only 72 years old.

Why Emma couldn't stay

The latest Tory deserter is speaking for many voters, says Peter Riddell

Emma Nicholson's reasons for changing party are a complicated mixture of personal frustration and policy disagreement. But, then so are all defections: indeed all political decisions. It was especially crass of Michael Heseltine to challenge her explanation. Within a week of the tenth anniversary of his own walk out from the Thatcher Cabinet over the Westland affair, he, of all people, should remember that politicians are always motivated by a combination of personal ambition and principle.

British politics is so tribal that defection is never straightforward or easy. That is why it is so rare. Talking to Miss Nicholson over the weekend, I was struck how similar her odyssey was in its gradual doubts, loosening of party ties and unexpected breaking point to the explanation offered by Alan Howarth when I interviewed him three months ago.

In both cases, the real question was not their unhappiness with government policies. A couple of dozen Tory MPs, and many more on particular issues, share their dislike of the Government's equivocation over Europe, its approach to the Asylum Bill, single parents, prison policy or the alleged general shift to the Right.

But very few of them, certainly more than half a dozen, have even considered changing party, and I would be startled if even two or three more did so before the next election. Some of the disenchanted have already announced that their retirement as MPs and others will continue, grumbling in private, but held by ties of personal and party loyalty, as well as a desire to fight on for their beliefs.

And there is that initial



tors is not their degree of disagreement, but their personal frustration: their inability to see how they can affect policy. Mr Howarth's disillusionment began after the 1992 election, when he ceased being a minister in part because he would not have "a substantial influence on the course of government at a senior level and it would be better to come out and find a new independence".

Miss Nicholson told me how she felt muzzled as a parliamentary private secretary. Having previously been involved in groups as diverse as the truancy campaign, the Howard League for Penal Reform and Shelter, she could see "little point in being an MP if denied freedom of speech and on the few occasions when I broke ranks (as in criticising ministerial attacks on single parents) being disciplined severely by the whips".

It was this sense of unfulfilled energy that led both to her resignation as a MP three months ago and to her two approaches to Mr Heseltine, of which so much has been made since Friday. According to her version, these were less conversations than "30-second soundbites"; less a request for a ministerial job than a cry for help; a question about what role there was for her in the contemporary Tory party.

Her dispute with him is one of those strange paradoxes in which politics abounds. Not only did she actively support Mr Heseltine during the 1990 leadership campaign, but she wanted him to become party leader last summer, and hoped he would stand in a second ballot.

Why, I asked, hadn't she rallied to Kenneth Clarke's robust defence of the pro-European, One Nation views she has held? She admires the Chancellor and he could have been "perhaps the one person to have kept me back. I tried to talk to him, but he did not have enough time". Nobody seemed prepared to listen, a complaint also made by Mr Howarth over the jobseeker's allowance and disabled rights.

These frustrations were reinforced by a growing dislike of the attitudes of many fellow Tory MPs. For Miss Nicholson, the crunch came over the Nolan inquiry. She believes in greater transparency and the disclosure by MPs of what they earn from parliamentary activities. When she gave evidence to Nolan, she was told by the Tory whips that she had betrayed her colleagues.

The pattern is remarkable similar to what occurred during the long disintegration of the Balfour Government 90 years ago. Four of the seven Tory defections to other major parties this century occurred in spring 1901. One was the youthful and brash Winston Churchill, who was a rascal about Tory ministers, even when he was still in the party, that either Mr Howarth or Miss Nicholson have been since they left.

Churchill, in turn, was described as a "turncoat", "half alien and wholly undesirable", and of "triumphing his sals to every passing wind". Sir Robert Rhodes James writes in his *Churchill: A Study in Failure 1900-39* how "as always in these matters, motives were probably mixed". But he acknowledges Churchill's desire to get on, so "there seems little doubt that he could have been retained, at least temporarily, if the Conservative Party had he been given promotion".

Miss Nicholson and Mr Howarth, like the other Tory defectors, are in the same league, either in ability or ambition. And their political future look far more limited. But however convoluted their motives, such defectors can neither be dismissed as disloyal nor ignored. Not only do they threaten the Government's already slim majority but they have expressed doubts held by the vast greater number of voters who have already deserted the Tories.

Party planner

WHILE MOST of us brush our teeth this morning to the plink plink fizz of New Year's Day, Lord Archer, the *piece-mealed* friend of Conservative prime ministers, will be brooding on the millennium.

He is planning his most spectacular party yet to see in 2000 with his formula of Krug (stocks are already secured) and shepherd's

pie. "Krug have promised me that this champagne and shepherd's pie will be the most memorable," he says.

His thoughts are on the guest list, being honed in consultation with Old Archer's Almanack.

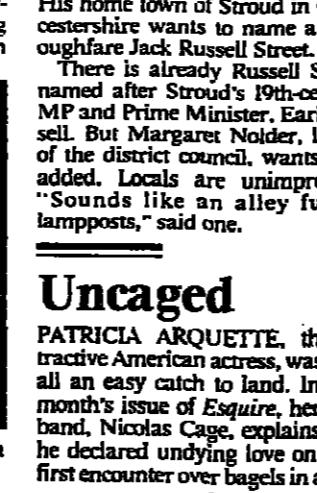
"John Major will be at the start of his fourth administration as Prime Minister; the Viscount Heseltine will be leader of the Lords," he says. "Tony Blair will be chairman of the BBC and Ken Livingstone Leader of the Opposition."

There will be a brace of Euro-Commissioners on his list: Sir William Cash and Sir John Patten; John Redwood, Secretary of State for Scotland, may show up; and the jolly-jumpered Gyles Brandreth will pop in as Secretary of State for National Heritage.

With Michael Portillo, the Leader of the House; Peter Lilley, the Chancellor; and William Hague, the Home Secretary, in attendance, Archer believes the party will go with a swing. He will be steering political opinion from a different perspective: "I shall have bought *The Times* to make sure that at least one newspaper will be supporting the Government."



"He's finding it tough — his resolution was party loyalty"



catess when she was just 19. So she set him an impossible quest to prove that his intent was honorable.

"She wrote a list of things he wanted," he admits slavishly. J.D. Salinger's autograph; a black orchid; a wedding dress from a tribe in northern Tibet; and Bob's Big Boy, a fibreglass statue from a hamburger restaurant in Los Angeles, were among the trophies he had to collect.

Cage got the autograph, dyed black an orchid but manifestly failed on all other counts. He wasn't to marry his girl for another eight years.

Rude health
TONY BLAIR's press secretary Alastair Campbell is a non-smoker, and an article he wrote for a pornographic title when he was 22 and puffing like a train may help explain why he stopped. His thesis was that cigs were anti-social and damaged sex life.

The article has been reprinted in a top-shelf magazine, under the heading "Sex v Smoking". It cannot, of course, be reproduced in its entirety in a family newspaper, but the gist of the argument is distilled in one philosophical gem: "The smoker, unfit as he is, is unlikely to

be able to keep the bedsprings jumping all night."

Last toast

GOOD TASTE didn't interfere with Dean Martin's Hollywood funeral. Friday's congregation included Jerry Lewis, Nancy Sinatra, Angie Dickinson and an old drinking friend, Shirley MacLaine, who has a reputation as a Doris Stokes-style medium.

"I'll talk to you later," Miss

MacLaine said in her address looking at a framed snapshot of Martin. Piped music included his hit, *Little Old Winehouse*. Me, at appropriate number given the demands made of Dino's liver.

Lewis departed from the liturgy with some comments about his old mucker that had the padre all-but swallowing his deputes; and added: "Rest well and don't forget to short-sheet, i.e. apple-pie my bed when I get there."

P.H.S.



NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Determined dreams in search of Tory voice.

Some Tories still believe they can win the next election; some even want to; and some know that as long as economic conditions are correct, they must necessarily win it. New year is the determinist's special time to dream, the time when newspapers normally carry more predictions than news, when even the most myopic of voters risk a glimpse into the future. To those who think that what must be will be, this has also the advantage of being a somewhat quiet time when the forces of inevitability can be given a subtle push in the proper direction.

Thus comes the new Conservative advertising message this weekend, stressing those elemental Tory forces of low tax, low mortgages, low inflation, low rate of strikes and asking Which Country has the best record in marshalling them. It gives the answer too: Our Country. The reader is asked to spend a leisurely moment considering the solid achievements of the past 16 years, identifying with them and pondering whether, despite all the miserable business of day-to-day politics, it is really time for a change to Labour.

This holiday season has not, of course, been the usual quiet time in Tory politics. The 'which country' campaign, which began in full page press advertisements on New Year's Eve, was conceived when Emma Nicholson was no more than a whingeing irritant in the Chief Whip's half closed eye.

The campaign's copywriters were not to know then that holiday-duty journalists struggling for the superlative language of snow would be able to fill their front pages with fresh tales of battered Tories, vanishing majorities and victory triumph.

The new advertisement is interesting, nonetheless. For, to a Tory determinist, the noisy flight of Miss Nicholson is as nothing in itself. What matters to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister and the senior and most purist in the cause, is that the economic achievements of the Conservatives exist and are seen to exist. The first of these aims, the mere existence of success, ought strictly to be enough by itself. But the second aim cannot be ignored: for various reasons the party has not made the here-and-now as marvellous as it once knew how to; it must know how to do so again.

The biggest problem for the Tory communicator is not the party's division over

Europe: Miss Nicholson's views of this issue are as dangerous, blinkered and as suitable for Opposition as they have always been. Yes, John Major has been moving away from her — and he has the backing of history and principle in so doing. The real problems for the Tories are the Tory politicians. Government ministers stamp upon a never-ending staircase of events. Party bosses bark like bad-tempered animals. Most back-benchers see a merciless disaster closing fast upon their hopes: few find support or solace from Downing Street and many are unwilling now to pretend otherwise. What is the salesman for the Conservatives to do?

The new advertisement is not quite free of politicians. The proud claims about the success of Our Country are attributed to the writer of the streaky signature whose name, were it written on one of the Christmas cards in this office, could be interpreted as a New Zealand rugby player, a Japanese diplomat or, more likely, someone not known by any of us. John Major's name is handwritten but not printed; nor is he pictured. The name of the Conservative Party is in such small type that even a Tory Whip could be excused for failing to notice its absence from duty. The advertisement is undoubtedly effective.

Labour leaders may be happy to shrug at this latest recovery attempt and get back to the business of destroying Mr Major before he has even a chance to recover. But to Conservatives who truly want to win the election there may be comfort yet in this message for the new year. Tory loyalists already expect little good from the 'hell and high water' that the Prime Minister promised his party chairman this weekend. They can easily predict the lost by-elections and local elections and the damnation of the Scott report. They know that their governing majority is at risk from both defection and the grave: whether the probability of death or defeat is the lower, even Mr Heseltine cannot know.

But they can also contemplate how, even in a year of more messy deals and compromise, there will be achievements to add to earlier economic advance. Tory words will certainly be found to express those achievements. Tory money will be found to make sure that those words are read and heard. As for the Tory voices, they will ideally be of the disembodied kind.

NEW WORLD TIMES

First with the news — and now around the world

From today *The Times* is available on computer screens from Valparaiso to Woolloomooloo; this edition has been 'live', as they say, since 2.30am and since then, at the tap of a few keys, enthusiasts who once had to wait for plane or boat to bring them their favourite British newspaper have been able to find us simultaneously with those relying on printed paper in Europe. On the West Coast of America this is yesterday afternoon's paper. May we wish our readers there a very good evening, and many more good evenings with *The Times* to come.

At first the users of this new service may be comparatively few. We expect that those with the choice of an electronic or printed edition will long prefer the more familiar form. But for readers who live or work abroad the impact can be immediate. And for the benefit of those closer to home we are determined that the heart of *The Times* should be as rapidly instantiated in the new electronic media as it has always been in other great technical changes of the past.

This is a moment to remember that *The Times* has always made its name by innovation, to recall how on November 28, 1814, the proprietor came down the press room at arm and announced to the printers whom he had held on standby: 'The Times is already printed by steam.' John Walter's first steam press in Britain transformed the inky trade from a cottage handicraft into a roaring industrial giant.

The Times was founded to advertise the most revolutionary new printing technology since Gutenberg: whole words preset in type instead of single letters. For capturing and bringing home the news *The Times* hired the new steamships, trains, balloons and air-

craft. It pioneered the telegraph and wireless. The history of *The Times* can be told as one long story of newer and faster processes and presses, from revolutionary colour plates and half-tone photographs to the Internet today.

Not all these changes were predicted as important at the time. Newspapers have taken technological blind allies in the past and they will do so again. It is always dangerous to predict how technology will develop. But *The Times* is as determined as ever that its essential qualities — once confined to London by the feet and wheels of delivery-boys and then spread slowly out from the coffee-houses of the City by stagecoach and train — should be more accessible now to continental Europe and beyond.

From today there is a new "interactive" *Times* section, containing a news update in which the day's events as presented in the final edition are monitored and taken forward: all the classified advertisements and even our famous crosswords will come in this interactive form. We intend to introduce a personal *Times* system by which the reader can first order up *à la carte* those parts of the paper that he or she particularly wants. This instant computer selection should simulate the fingers turning the pages in the library, train or at home.

For those who prefer their *Times* in the hand and the serendipity of the daily help-yourself search, the paper is still here in something like the form that John Walter invented. But it is selling in numbers and to places undreamt of in the ambitions of our thundering founding fathers. Today we increase our range further: the entire world can be our news-stand.

STARS ON A PLATE

Librarians are cocksure creatures. They know what they want and they usually get it. Baroness Thatcher was an archetype, as was Mahatma Gandhi before her and Eamonn de Valera. Cut from the same star-cloth were T. S. Eliot, Oscar Wilde, Nietzsche and the Duchess of York — irrepressible authors all.

Yet our Librarian Monarch-elect for 1996 is that man with the American Express plastic: Sir Terence Conran. His immodest television persona may irritate the middle classes a bit, but think of how profoundly drab their lives would be without him. In his fizzing innings as the nation's premier style-and-grub guru, he has perked up homes as much as palates, delivering us from provincial evils and a stilted way of living.

Apart from a sharp exchange with Sir Roy Strong over his savaging of the Conran biography, most biting and chewing was done last year in one or other of Sir Terence's many restaurants. The latest, the massive Mezzo in London's Soho, opened in September. But the next year promises a move away from the Conran-crowded capital. Glasgow

beckons. With all the propitious moons moving firmly into his fifth kitchen, the restless entrepreneur has decided to set up shop in Scotland's fiercest city. A new Conran shop — "only the fourth in the world" — is planned for Glasgow's old Sheriff Court building. The district council now sits in judgment on the application, but this Libra's stars are favourable. Taking style to Glasgow may be a delicate exercise, but it will not be without its testing moments. Sir Terence has not, so far, balked at a good challenge.

Where else this year will the expert navigator go? What other form of restaurant will he conjure up for us? Will he cater for an Oxford college or open a chop-house at Lords? We do not need the stars to tell us that he might be using less British beef in his entries this year than he did in 1995. This Libra will have a jaunty 1996 — expansionist, innovative and daring. And as an even busier man, he will have no time to make those ads again. His stars, our astrologer tells us, say nothing about television.

It is true that Redcliffe Way was one of the most shaming highway-planning acts of the 1960s, and remains

one of this city's principal challenges. Plans are afoot that would return St Mary's lost dignity, as part of an historic mile that links Temple Meads Station to the SS Great Britain in the old city docks, symbolising that missing link in Brunel's great rail-and-sea journey from London to New York. It is a visionary project that promises a glorious arrival to this city.

We have the spirit, but the shame is that a great city like Bristol no longer has the means.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE FERGUSON,
Ferguson Mann Architects,
Royal Colonade,

18 Great George Street, Bristol.

From the Vicar of
St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol

Sir, Simon Jenkins does Bristolians a great injustice when he suggests that

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Lessons as Emma Nicholson defects

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, Apart from the reduction of the parliamentary majority, many Tories will deeply regret Emma Nicholson's defection (report, later editions, December 30) because of her steadfast support for Europe and her obvious care for people. Whatever the full reasons for her move, she dramatically illustrates the risks inherent in the Conservative Party moving to the right and 'wrapping itself in the flag' as the election approaches.

Threatened by Sir James Goldsmith's party on its flank outside and by its own Eurosceptics inside, it is tempting for the Prime Minister to shift further in a right-wing, reluctant European direction. To do this will attract voters who would otherwise abstain or vote for Goldsmith. However, as Emma Nicholson has demonstrated, moves to gather support on the Right will lose support from the centre, particularly from those who believe it is in Britain's interests to play a full and positive role in Europe.

As those at the centre outnumber those on the Right the danger is that of losing far more votes than are gained. Europe is at the heart of the Conservatives' internal difficulties. Eurosceptics feel a strain resulting from the party's attitude towards Europe, and as a pragmatic pro-European I feel a strain in the opposite direction. Yet do we wish the Conservative Party to split in two, or suffer continued losses? That way lies disaster, not for one election but for many.

There is a way forward to unite the party, at least for those who desire it to win. Disraeli said "Trust the people". We should commit the party to a referendum before opting in to a European currency, while at the same time restoring to it Government a pragmatically positive rhetoric and policy towards Europe.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
Conservative MEP for Kent East,
1979-1994.

8 Wellmeade Drive,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

December 30.

From Mr L. T. Smith

Sir, The affair of the desertion of Emma Nicholson to the Lib Dems illustrates the care that Conservative associations must exercise when choosing their candidates for Westminster.

Quite clearly this lady, burdened with middle-class guilt, was never a Conservative, not even with a small c. She will be much happier with Mr Ashdown — and so make all true Conservatives, who believe that charity begins at home, happier too.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. SMITH,
23 Markham House,
Kingswood Drive,
Bowen Drive, SE21.

December 30.

From Mrs Jan Prebble

Sir, The lack of charity and understanding shown by senior Conservatives to Emma Nicholson and expressed in terms of personal abuse towards her must have lost the Tories many votes. I feel sure that the electorate cannot tolerate a government which seeks to retain a majority by insisting that its MPs ignore their consciences and substitute hypocrisy for integrity.

Yours sincerely,
JAN PREBBLE,
905 Nelson House,
Dolphin Square, SW1.

December 31.

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir, Michael Heseltine's suggestion that Emma Nicholson would have remained loyal had she been promoted was petty, but at least it explains his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
JOE HAINES,
1 South Friars,
London Road, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

December 30.

From Mr George Ferguson

Sir, While Simon Jenkins is quite right in berating the setting of St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol (The story and the shame, December 23), he is wrong in asserting that the city lacks great buildings or community spirit. We have a fine collection of historic buildings and a strong sense of community that bridges ideological differences.

Bristol was cited by the late Sir John Summerson some forty years ago as one of the most English city he would show a foreigner "to give him a balanced idea of English architecture". We do, apart from many medieval churches, have great buildings by John Wood, Vanbrugh, Nash, Smirke, Cockerell, Street, Godwin, Holden and Gilbert Scott, and others by notable Bristol architects. Sadly we also have our fair share of self-inflicted wounds.

It is true that Redcliffe Way was one of the most shaming highway-planning acts of the 1960s, and remains

Electronic keyboards hit right note

From Mr Michael Eardley

Sir, Your report on electronic keyboards ("Keyboards silence piano in fight for keys to kingdom of music", December 28) serves only to show how this most useful resource is still misunderstood and undervalued. It is true that the piano is no longer a commonplace choice as an instrument, there being many equally attractive possibilities and because it tends not to figure prominently in the pop music.

That many children seeking to take up an instrument choose one which has some kind of pop presence is neither unexpected nor new — witness the boom in popularity of the electric guitar since the Sixties and the growth of interest in the flute when James Galway featured in the pop charts.

Those who do choose the piano do so because of a genuine interest in it. Although its popularity is declining, the piano still provides most candidates for external music examinations, such as Trinity College London or the Associated Board, and indications are that technical standards of playing are as good as ever, if not better.

The error, it seems to me, is to attempt to equate the electronic keyboard (not the often highly priced digital piano, which is a dif-

ferent animal) with the acoustic piano.

The electronic keyboard is not a poor substitute but a new, fast-developing instrument with its own technology, technique and repertoire.

Through much of the education system these instruments serve to introduce a broad spectrum of children to making music at an early age, teaching them something of formal notation if they wish, but most importantly offering them opportunities to create their own music with ease.

The electronic keyboard has enormous potential, from its use in pop music and education to its value in supporting more traditional musical activities such as harmony and composition. It is now recognised by examination boards, which observe and develop important trends in music education. It should not be dismissed as some kind of inferior toy but be valued, as the Director of Tonbridge School's music recommends, as a "doorway to the fun of music".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL EARDLEY
(Director, Music and Speech
Examinations),
Trinity College London,
16 Park Crescent, W1.
December 29.

Do it yourself — or let them do it?

From Mr Simon Wainman

Sir, Mr Jarrett's "self-assembly bird table" (letter, December 28) is as nothing compared to my "Guide-Nails" holder.

Opening my stocking on Christmas morning I was confronted with the following instructions:

TO BE
NO HAMMERED MORE
THE FINGERS

1. Introduce the nail in one of the holes lightly inferior to the nail, which will deep firmly supported in vertical position.

2. Leaf the sharp-pointed extremity of the nail stand out a little from the base of instrument to receive the nail.

3. Give some beats of hammer in the head of nail to obtain one principle of suitable placing.

4. Finish the nail after having retreated the nail-holes by simple pressure in the two provided arms for them.

The item in question closely resembles a clothes peg.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON WAINMAN,
Upper Ashe House,
Ash, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

December 28.

From Commander T. V. G. Binney,
RN (retd)

Sir, Surely Mr Jarrett has got it wrong. The "self" in his self-assembly bird table applies not to the table (a far-fetched idea) but is directed at the birds.

Yellowhammers, woodpeckers and sandpipers should have the necessary skills but first he will have to attract them to the scene.

For this he will need a bird table.

Yours faithfully,
GILES BINNEY,
Close Cottage,
Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire.

December 29.

From Commander T. V. G. Binney,
RN (retd)

Sir, Your report (December 18) that staff starting work in the new Abbey Wood complex near Bristol are expected to become the envy of every MoD civil servant left behind in London will have left a bitter taste in the mouths of many of my colleagues.

We do not want to go, nor have our views ever been considered. If we decide not to move because of family or health constraints we face the sack and unemployment.

The £25,000 quoted as relocation expenses make me sound as if we will all be winning the lottery. Once this has been passed on to estate agents, movers, solicitors, etc, London civil servants will in fact be worse off, with pay reduced by up to £3,500 and hours of work increased.

Yours etc,
E. C. BAKER,
8 Model Cottages,
Vapery Lane, Pirbright, Surrey.

December 18.

Signs and the times



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
December 31: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Norwich preached the Sermon.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards, London.

New Year's Day birthdays

Dr Jack Birks, company chairman, 76; Lord Colvyn, 54; Sir James Crane, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 75; Mr John Fuller, writer, 59; Lord Kingsland, QC, 54; Professor Dame June Lloyd, paediatrician, 68; Sir Albert McQuarrie, former MP, 78; Dr James Merriman, former chairman, National Computing Centre, 81; Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, 72; Colonel P.A. Porteus, VC, 78; Mrs Patience Purdy, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 67; Professor R.A. Raphael, chemist, 75; Mr Lawrence Rowe, cricketer, 47; Mr J.D. Salinger, author, 77; Lord Swansea, 71.

Appointment

Mr Noel Rice has been appointed Hospitaler of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital Jerusalem.

Latest wills

Mr John Philip Smith of Fowey, Truro, Cornwall, former deputy managing director, British Aerospace (Hatfield/Chester Division), left estate valued at £166,357 net. He left his personal papers to the Society and the development of various aeroplanes to the Churchill Archives Centre, the Churches Conservation Trust, the British Aerospace and Hawker Siddeley to the Fellowship of Engineering. Helen Moore, of Penrith, Cumbria, Marion-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, 1959-62, left estate valued at £72,500 net. She left £15,000 to the National Trust. Professor Sir David Waldown Smithers, of Knockholt, Kent, Emeritus Professor of Radiotherapy in the University of London and former director of the Radiotherapy Department at the Royal Marsden Hospital, left estate valued at £267,098 net. Mr Kenneth Charles McKewa, of Darlington, Co Durham, the surgeon in oesophageal surgery, who established the McKewa Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh awarded annually the principal lecturer at the college autumn meeting, left estate valued at £1,001,718 net. Mr Douglas Hepworth Robinson, of Abingdon, Salop, former editor of the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*, and regional director of the National Agricultural Advisory Service for the West Midlands, left estate valued at £30,159 net. He left £5,000 to the Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton, and the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association. Other estates include (net, before tax): Mr Peter Robin Cuthbert, of Ambleside, Cumbria, £992,468. Mr Erwin Elkes, of Sandringham, Suffolk, £894,361.

Nature notes

THE severe weather drove many birds south. Large flocks of golden plovers, lapwings, fieldfares and redwings were seen heading for parts of the country free of snow. In the Scottish mountains, red grouse burrowed in the snow for heather seeds, while snow buntings moved up to high, wind-swept crags where the snow was thin and there was a chance of finding grass seeds.

Small birds can survive hard frosts provided they get enough food for them to keep up their body temperature through the night. The abundance of berries this winter, especially on the hawthorns, helped blackbirds and thrushes through the days when the ground was frozen and worms were impossible to reach. For greefins, there was a good harvest of hornbeam seeds. Small insect-eating birds, such as wrens and goldcrests

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent), Florence, 1449; Huldreich Zwingli, Swiss reformer, Wildhaus, 1484; Paul Revere, American patriot, Boston, Massachusetts, 1735; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, Blackburton, Oxfordshire, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, Liverpool, 1819; Sir James Frazer, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; Henry Handel Richardson (pen-name of Ethel Florence Lindesay), novelist, Melbourne, 1870; E.M. Forster, novelist, London, 1879; William Fox film producer, Hungary, 1879; Martin Niemoller, anti-Nazi priest, Lippstadt, Germany, 1892; J. Edgar Hoover, founder of the FBI, Washington, 1895; H.A.R. (Kim) Philby, British double agent, Ambala, India, 1911; Jack de Manie, broadcaster, 1914.

DEATHS: William Wycherley, dramatist, London, 1716; James Francis Edward Stuart, the "Old Pretender", Rome, 1766; Johann Christian Bach, composer, London, 1782; Heinrich Hertz, physicist, Bonn, 1894; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect, London, 1944; Maurice Chevalier, actor and singer, Paris, 1972; John Aloysius Costello, Prime Minister of Ireland 1948-51 and 1954-57, 1976.

The Daily Universal Register (renamed *The Times* on January 1, 1789), was founded, 1785.

Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland came into force, 1801.

The Commonwealth of Australia was established with Edmund Barton as the first prime minister, 1901.

Farthing ceased to be legal tender, 1961.

Britain entered the Common Market, 1973.



Prince Harry gallantly helps to keep the rain off his grandmother and great-grandmother as they walked together to Sandringham Parish Church for morning service yesterday

Royal Air Force promotions

Half yearly promotions

The Ministry of Defence announces the following RAF promotions all effective from today:

Air Rank promotions

Air Commodore to Air Vice-Marshal:

J C French; B C McCandless; M Van der Veen; M D Smart.

Group Captain to Air Commodore:

D C Andrews; L A Doble; J H Haines; N I Hamilton; D J Morris; K Norrise; B J Poulton; T W Rimmer; P G Scott; G J Woodley; R E O Johnson; R C Fowler.

General Duties Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:

P A Barrett; P C Bingham; R F Burrough; A Campbell; D S Griggs; I S Hall; R J Hounds; A J Lockwood; B G McLaren; D M Moss; J C Platt; J W Thorpe; F L Turner; S A Wrigley.

General Duties (Ground) Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:

P B Atar; R T Dingle; M J Fuller; N J Pearson.

Squadron Leader to Wing Leader:

R M Allchorne; N R Benson; P S Boyland; N H Brady; E S Brannan; D N Cass; J M Cass; S Chidenden; N A Cobb; P C Corlett; B T Crowley; A Coy; S C Evans; K J Floyd; S J Edwards; S J Fotheringham; P M N Gidley; P M Niches; P J Roberts; P C Rose; P J Sneyd; P A Storey; D M Stuchfield; M C Sutton; A N J Thangood; I J Trask; S C Turner; C J Wesley.

Supply Branch

Squadron Leader to Wing Commander:

A J Clare; J A Colgate; N H M Finley; N J Gordon; V Thompson; C C Trundle; D J Ward; R A Wilkins.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader:

D Barber; R P C Brown; A S Corbett; P H Gibbs; S Johnson; A D Mayare; M A Morton; C I Oldfield; D W Raine; L M Reid; C R Taylor; K S Thompson; S R Thorner; M Totman.

Engineering Branch

Wing Commander to Group Captain:

N A Baird; J P Chitty; C H Maxwell; R J A Powell; S Randalls; F D Ryall; G M

Stapleton; K K Thomson; M D Wyke.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader:

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Squadron Leader to Wing Commander:

P M D Brown; P T Coleman; R L Gill; S A Griffin; S S Keen; R A Laybourn; J A H Sharp; J A J Snell; P J Stokes; D J Tanner; A J Ward; D A Ward; M Welford; A L Wilson; J A Young.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader:

D R Allchorne; R A Bunn; R J Cawdron; R J H Fenton; R J Innes; J P Mayne; A F Moxham; D P Murray; P Rooney; C F Shaw; R Shields; E Wyn-Jones.

Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader:

J Boston; D J Bowles; L Calvey; T Cottis; S J Edwards; S R Evans; B R Garwood; J Good; A Gough; M G Heffern; S J Hermon; A K Johnston; T M Makinson; P March; P J R McGeough; M McKilligan; N Murray; N J Phillips; S M Russell; T N Turner; C L Walker; S R Wilkinson; H J Wray.

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THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY JANUARY 1 1990

NEWS

I won't cut and run, says Major

John Major accused the latest Tory defector of "cutting and running" as the Conservative high command tried to head off further desertions. In his first comment on Emma Nicholson's switch to the Liberal Democrats, the Prime Minister underlined his determination to soldier on until next year.

Miss Nicholson said in an interview with *The Times* that a Tory MP punched her in the stomach after she voted for disclosure of MPs' outside earnings.

Pages 1, 214

How Wilson pioneered the soundbite

The political soundbite was invented for Harold Wilson 30 years ago by a professional speaking coach who told him to keep it short, keep it sharp and avoid fancy flights of oratory. The unsung pioneer was Cicely Berry, later the Royal Shakespeare Company's voice coach.

Pages 1, 6

Into the lion's den

Gillian Shephard is to confront classroom militants head-on at Easter when she becomes the first Conservative Education Secretary for 16 years to address the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers.

Page 1

Unionist pledge

The Ulster Unionists would support John Major if Labour tabled a no-confidence motion. John Taylor, the party's deputy leader, said, "The Unionists had no reason to bring about an early general election and he regarded speculation about a poll this year as ill-founded."

Page 2

Crock of gold

The prospect of a record £33 million National Lottery jackpot was condemned as grotesque and obscene by senior churchmen and political figures.

Page 3

General on attack

General Sir Peter de la Billière, Britain's commander in the Gulf War, has accused the Defence Ministry of "disgraceful interference" during the conflict. He feared for Tornado pilots and wanted the low-level raids on Iraqi targets halted.

Page 4

Novice decline

The number of nuns and monks in England and Wales has fallen by a third in a decade, a rate of decline that could threaten some of the 300 orders and missionarys all over the world.

Page 4

The morning after the year before

Feeling rough? Dry mouth? Throbbing head? New Year's Day is the festival of St Hangover and all over the country, people are feeling bad or worse. But the secret of the hangover cure is that there isn't one. By all means try a prairie oyster, imbri or the hair of the dog. But nothing works much better than Alka-Seltzer — if you can stand the fizz.

Page 3

BUSINESS

JOBS warning

The banking and finance industry faces tens of thousands of job losses, according to the main financial union.

Page 36

Forte pledge

Forte is to publish a defence document promising investors £500 million in special payments and a dividend rise and declaring that the company is on the verge of strong growth.

Page 36

Outlook bright

ICI, the bellwether of British industry, enters 1990 in its most confident mood since the start of the recession.

Page 36

Summer blues

High street sales and the bitterly cold weather are being blamed for a lacklustre start to post-Christmas bookings for summer package holidays, even though travel agents are offering 15 per cent discounts.

Page 13

Welcome home

Pat Roberts Cairns is sensible, nice, the sort who always hoovers under the sofa. Mary Riddell meets the editor of *Good Housekeeping*.

Page 13

LOTTERY NUMBERS

6, 43, 42, 39, 45, 32 and bonus number 36

FEATURES

Mad hatters?

American physicists are campaigning to change the way they are portrayed on screen. Geoff Brown believes the absent-minded professor is here to stay.

Page 12

Biting edge

Scientists have unravelled the three-dimensional geometry that lies behind the cobra's venom — and that could lead to new antidotes.

Page 12

Head men

Between them, the former East Ender Terry Mansfield and Old Etonian Nicholas Coleridge dominate the women's magazine market. Dominic Kennedy compares their styles.

Page 13

Young perspective

At the Tate Gallery in Liverpool, teenagers are turning a fresh eye to familiar works of art.

Page 10

ARTS

Happy birthday

The rest of the world celebrated the centenary of cinema in 1995, but Britain is having its party this year.

Page 11

Theatrical hit

In Paris, Peter Brook's *Hamlet* draws upon some of the 20th century's greatest dramatic theorists.

Page 11

Chamber contrast

The Wiener Quartet failed to live up to expectations at the Wigmore Hall, but the Brindisi Quartet's performance charmed the ear.

Page 11

Football

Alan Shearer is the first footballer to score 100 goals in the FA Carling Premiership, but is his England place sacrosanct?

Page 19

Rugby league

Wigan were awaiting their seemingly inevitable coronation in the Stones Championship today, with victory at home to Warrington, coupled with a St Helens win against Leeds, enough to make their position unassailable.

Page 20

Crickets

England and South Africa will this week play out only the fifth 0-0 draw in a full series of Tests

unless one of them escapes the fear of defeat that is throttling their encounter.

Page 21

Rugby union

Cardiff have more to gain than just the Heineken Cup when they play Toulouse next Sunday.

Victory would bounce them towards a six-figure financial bonus via new dealings with blue-chip companies.

Page 26

Racing

Hopes were high that the sport is about to emerge from the grip of the big freeze with meetings

expected to go ahead at Exeter, Windsor and Southwell.

Page 28

SPORT

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